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Savings to pay for regular troops

Territorial Army to be cut by third

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Territorial Army is facing cuts of almost a third to help to pay for more regular soldiers. Army chiefs have drawn up a proposal to present to ministers as part of the Government's strategic defence review that would lead to a reduction in the TA of more than 17,000 soldiers and an increase in regular troops of between 2,000 and 3,000. The proposal, which would cut the TA from 57,600 to about 40,000, comes after an assessment of the role of the reserves. The "Terris" were formed in 1908. The extent of the proposed TA cuts is likely to anger the organisation of largely part-time soldiers — about 1,400 are permanent non-regulars — after having suffered previous manpower reductions and an uncertain future since the end of the Cold War. But Army chiefs are convinced that a smaller TA is fully justified. However, although the end of the Cold War has persuaded Army chiefs that a large TA force is no longer necessary, they believe ministers are convinced of the need to redress some of the equally savage cuts imposed on the regular Army by the previous Conservative Government. The addition of 2,000 to 3,000 soldiers for the regular Army would boost numbers in the support regiments, such as engineers, signals and logis-



"Somehow it's not the same since the cuts"

tics, which were "hollowed out" by the drastic pruning ordered by the Treasury in the Frontline First cuts in 1996. Every attempt is to be made to strengthen the links between the TA and the regular Army, but the conclusion was that there was no longer a need to maintain a force of nearly 60,000 TA members when the end of the Cold War had removed their primary functions, which were to reinforce the regulars in conjunction with mobilised reservists to fight a war in Central Europe and to guard key installations in Britain in wartime. If George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, approves, he is likely to argue that the TA will still have a vital role to play, underpinned by the invaluable contribution the army reserves have made in Bosnia. TA medical staff were the first to volunteer for Bosnia. The TA has also served in

the Falklands. But to mobilise the TA for an overseas operation alongside the regulars would take about 90 days, compared with the 30 days expected of an army mechanised or armoured brigade. A big cut in the TA would bring considerable savings. A TA infantry battalion costs about £3 million a year to run. Senior TA officers are also concerned that they may lose many of their 700 properties. One said last night: "You can well see government accountants casting covetous glances at our headquarters in Chelsea at the Duke of York's barracks which faces the King's Road. There is also End Cliff Hall, a grade II listed building in Sheffield." Drill halls around the country are also used by the army cadet force and the air training corps. "If we lose those properties, then not only does the TA go but also the cadet forces." "If the TA cuts should fall on the infantry, there will be huge swaths of the country that will be without any military adult representation whatsoever. In particular, we are talking about Wales, Scotland, East Anglia and Cornwall. We can only hope that former members of the TA and others who recognise our value will campaign to stop these cuts." Officers hope to draw on TA personalities, including the Duke of Westminster, Julian Brazier, the Tory MP who has been an TA soldier for 13 years, and Richard Holmes, the television historian. The Army's proposal to Continued on page 2, col 7.



Gordon Brown and his girlfriend, Sarah Macaulay, at the birthday party of Ben, son of his political secretary, Sue Nye. Budget plans, page 2

Prince Jefri settles £180m court case

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN ABRUPT end to one of the most expensive civil actions in English legal history, which provided an extraordinary insight into the alleged extravagant lifestyle and sexual exploits of Prince Jefri of Brunei, will be announced in the High Court today. Prince Jefri who recently bought Asprey, the Queen's jewellers, for £244 million, and his former close friends and emissaries, the wealthy Manoukian brothers, will confirm an out-of-court settlement to the action in which they were suing each other for a total of

£180 million, after negotiations in a London hotel between their lawyers. The deal will save Prince Jefri, youngest brother of the Sultan of Brunei, from facing embarrassing cross-examination in the witness box about his personal extravagance. It will also mean that Bob Manoukian, a secretive London-based tycoon listed as the 128th richest man in Britain, and his brother Rafi will be spared the ordeal of disclosing further details of their business activities. In a story that revealed a fabulous tapestry of *objets d'art*, women and astonishing affluence, the parties were

suing each other in a multi-million pound battle. During the hearing, which began five weeks ago, officers from Inland Revenue's Special Office — the so-called "ghostbusters" — have regularly attended and heard from Bob Manoukian about deals worth £50 million with the prince over 14 years. The Revenue reached an agreed tax payment of only £200,000 with the brothers in a case that came to light during the trial of a corrupt tax inspector last year. Inspectors have ordered transcripts of the searching cross-examination by Gordon Pollock

QC, counsel for the Prince, of Bob Manoukian, 53. Both sides said that the agreement will remain confidential but it is believed that costs of £10 million for the hearing before Mr Justice Longmore will be shared. A spokesman for the Manoukians said: "His Royal Highness Prince Jefri, and Bob and Rafi Manoukian have withdrawn their claims and ended their litigation. They are satisfied that the outcome is honourable for all sides. The terms of the settlement are not being disclosed and both sides have agreed to keep all Continued on page 2, col

Janata to form Delhi coalition

The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party was invited last night to form a government in India following an inconclusive general election. Atal Behari Vajpayee, a respected former foreign minister and a political moderate, will be sworn in on Wednesday to lead a coalition. Page 13

Cancer link claim

Campaigners claimed that the tobacco industry's case had been damaged by the disclosure that in 1970 a company acknowledged the link with lung cancer. Page 4

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Jails inspector condemns immigration 'shambles'

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Chief Inspector of Prisons has demanded sweeping changes to the way hundreds of detainees are held in immigration detention centres following an inspection of both camps. Sir David Ramsbottom has urged ministers to create a separate immigration detention service after describing the existing policy for dealing with asylum-seekers and the Immigration Service as a "complete, and utter shambles". In a report sent to the Home Office, he has made a series of far-reaching demands for improvements at Campsfield House, near Oxford, and Tinsley House, near Gatwick. Sir David condemns the existing policy for dealing with immigration detainees and says that Group 4 and Wackenhut, the two private companies that run the camps, are in an impossible position because they do not know what rights and responsibilities they have towards detainees. His reports on the centres, expected to be published this

week, call for staff at both institutions to be put on the same footing as custody officers working in private jails. He recommends that only lawyers registered by the Law Society as experts in immigration and asylum law should be allowed to enter the centres. Sir David also calls for the introduction of incentive-based regimes that would allow inmates to enjoy additional privileges for good behaviour. He also wants more

educational facilities for detainees. Sir David began an unannounced inspection at the Group 4-run Campsfield House last October and met Jack Straw and Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, because of his concern at what he found. He has said: "In essence, I believe there is a complete and utter shambles, not only as far as immigration policy is concerned, but in the activities of all connected with immigration detainees and asylum-seekers, and in particular the immigration service itself. At the Campsfield House end, I feel very sorry for Group 4, who have been put in an impossible position because their contract is not clear, they do not know what rights and responsibilities they have in dealing with detainees, they are made to implement Immigration Department decisions over which they have no control and therefore they are on the receiving end of a great deal of public criticism, which really ought to be better focused."



Sir David demanded far-reaching reforms

Low water pressure 'hindering' firemen

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

AN EMERGENCY meeting is being held in Whitehall tomorrow to investigate claims by fire officers that water companies are hindering their ability to deal with big blazes by reducing water pressure. Fire chiefs claim the policy is a cheap bid to combat leakage rather than repair the mains network. They say they face a growing number of incidents where there is not enough water to fight big blazes. Tomorrow morning, Home Office, local government and water companies representatives will meet at the Department of the Environment in an attempt to address these concerns. Water companies still lose around four billion litres a day through leakage and had targets imposed by the Government last year. The industry is spending £800 million on bids to cut down water loss over the next few years. However, fire chiefs claim they have noticed significant changes in water levels. On occasions, firemen have been forced to use water from local rivers to compensate for the

fact they cannot get enough from the mains. Martin Chapman, of the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association, called for immediate tougher standards. A spokesman for the Home Office, which will represent fire chiefs at the meeting, said: "We are aware of concerns by some people in the fire service about low water pressure." Last night a spokesman for the Water Services Association said that water companies had called tomorrow's meeting in order to discuss the impact of the Fire Brigade activities. "There is nothing new in pressure regulation. The suggestion that it is a cheap method of leakage control is unfair, it is one of a range of tools used to tackle the problem," he said. "Even if you had a leak free system you would still have to exercise some form of pressure management in order to ensure you get supplies to people in lots of different areas. There is no way that water companies would permit a drop in their pressure to dangerously low levels."

<http://www.help-I-am-hopelessly-addicted>

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK
FIVE million Americans now suffer from serious addiction to the Internet. According to the latest issue of *Psychology Today* these addicts constitute one out of every nine Internet users in America. The addiction can lead to divorce, child neglect, the sick, debt and legal trouble. Although the syndrome is not yet included as an ailment in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* — the American "shrink's bible" — experts believe that it is only a matter of time before Internet Addiction Disorder joins the list of identified psychiatric problems. The addiction was first noticed in 1994 by Kimberly Young, a professor of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. It is defined as staying on line for 38 hours a week or more in leisure time. Symptoms include lying to family or colleagues about the amount of time spent on the Internet; restlessness, irritability and anxiety when not engaged in computer activities; a neglect of social obligations and a consistent failure to quit. This "pathological Internet use" has spawned a number of support groups. One of them, the Internet Addiction Service, is run by Marissa Hecht Orzack, a psychologist at Harvard University's McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts. Her group receives hundreds of pleas. A recent letter said: "We got divorced one year after we got the computer. My wife was in chat rooms all the time and ignored our young daughter. She spent hundreds of dollars on phone bills and had an affair on line that turned into a real affair." Internet Addiction Services is at <http://www.computeraddiction.com> Letters, page 21

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Film kittens must miss the Oscar cream



Famous Fred, pet and rock star, and some of his animators: from left, Luan Ghani, Stephen Harper, Suzanne Deakin and Kevin Richards. Below: Joanna Quinn, who recruited them

DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

IT IS the stuff of young filmmakers' dreams. Nine animators who graduated as recently as 1996 have worked on a movie that has been nominated for an Oscar, competing against Disney and other international studios. But there the dream stops. None can afford to go to the Tinseltown party. Hotels and flights are far too expensive, so the class of '96 will just have to watch it on television. They will probably stay up through the night to catch a glimpse of the director and the producers. They were all recruited by Joanna Quinn, their former tutor, who heads the animation degree course at the University of Wales College,

Newcomers with nomination cannot afford Hollywood visit

Newport, and who wrote, designed and directed *Famous Fred*, in a small studio in Cardiff.

The warm and whimsical story of an extraordinary cat called Fred who has a secret nocturnal life as a rock star - adapted from a book by Psey Simmons and intended for both adults and children - has been nominated in the Best Animated Short Film category. Lenny Henry served as the voice of Fred, and Tom Courtney was the voice of Fred's friend, a guinea-pig called

Kenneth. With a budget of just under £1 million and an 11-month deadline, work on the 30-minute film began in 1996.

At that time, Ms Quinn recalled, Disney and Warners had soaked up most of Britain's leading animators and she found it impossible to find as many as 30 for her film.

She called on some of her best former students days after they had graduated: "We were rather desperate to find good people. I was also keen to employ local people as

we were doing the film in Wales." Although computers have transformed the art of animation and could have cut down on staff numbers, everything on *Famous Fred* was done by hand in the traditional way. Ms Quinn decided that was the only way to recreate the hand-drawn illustrations of the book.

The TVC London Production for S4C and Channel 4 was first screened at Christmas 1996, and has already scooped several inter-

national prizes, including the Bafta best animation award. Commenting on the students' reaction to the Oscar nomination, Ms Quinn said: "They are absolutely thrilled. It will do wonders for their CVs."

Tom Stubbs, 24, who is teaching animation three days a week, said: "I finished at the end of June at college. The Monday after, I went straight into *Famous Fred*. We'll probably gather round and sit through the night for the Oscars on telly. But because animation is not considered that important, they always seem to cut it off. We may catch a glimpse of Joanna."

Suzanne Deakin, 24, who is continuing her animation studies at the Royal College of Art, said: "I'll be crossing my fingers lots of times."



Wife says Stagg confessed to Nickell killing

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE estranged wife of Colin Stagg, the man accused and acquitted of the Wimbledon Common murder of Rachel Nickell, has claimed that he confessed to the killing during their marriage.

In a newspaper interview yesterday, Diane Stagg, 29, claims her former husband twice told her in angry outbursts that he was responsible for the death of Miss Nickell, who was found on the common with multiple stab wounds in 1992.

Her claims may pave the way for Miss Nickell's parents Andrew and Monica to launch a civil claim for compensation. Mr Stagg, 33, an unemployed gardener, denied having anything to do with the murder of Miss Nickell, a part-time model and mother of one. He was formally acquitted of the murder after an Old Bailey judge ruled that evidence obtained by an undercover policewoman was inadmissible.

However in the interview, with *The Express*, Mrs Stagg said that during two violent confrontations he had confessed. Mrs Stagg, who lives with a new partner in the Thames Valley area under an assumed name, claims to live in fear.

She has handed in a tape to Thames Valley Police which she alleges contains a recording of a death threat left on her answer phone by Mr Stagg. A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said: "We can confirm that an allegation has been made by Diana Stagg but at this stage we are not prepared to discuss the details of our investigation so far."

Mr and Mrs Nickell were not available for comment. The undercover woman detective who was used in a "honeytrap" operation to get Colin Stagg to confess the murder of Rachel Nickell is to retire on medical grounds, police sources confirmed yesterday.

The officer, who is now 33, has never been identified apart from the cover name of Lizzie Jones. Reports yesterday said she was leaving because she was still traumatised by the case.

Former Irish minister found dead under cliff

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN IRISH politician linked to the financial scandal surrounding Charles Haughey, the former Taoiseach, was found dead at the bottom of a cliff in Cork yesterday, apparently after an accident.

Hugh Coveney, 52, was discovered in 30ft of water at the bottom of Robertscove cliffs, on the outskirts of Cork city, after a huge sea-and-air search. Although Gardaí are unclear about exactly what happened, they believe that his death was an accident.

The former minister, who had entered the Dail in 1981, left for his usual walk with his dogs on Saturday morning. Concern grew when he failed to return by evening and two of his dogs were found in the cliff car park. A search began, and was extended when the third dog was discovered half-way down the cliff.

More than 200 people helped in the 12-hour search. Mr Coveney was eventually spotted by divers, in water under the area where the terrifier had been found. One theory was that he had fallen while trying to rescue the dog.

Mr Coveney's body was removed from the water and carried by naval vessel to Cork harbour where it was draped in an Irish Tricolour and

moved to hospital for a post-mortem examination.

Mr Coveney, a Fine Gael MP, resigned as Marine and Defence Minister in 1995 after it emerged that he had telephoned Bord Gais, the gas company, to ask if his family firm of quantity surveyors was being considered for a state-funded contract. He remained in politics, and last year was appointed Fine Gael's agriculture spokesman.

It emerged this month that he had been questioned by a tribunal set up recently to investigate the financial affairs of Mr Haughey, who received £1.3 million in secret payments from a supermarket

tycoon when he was Prime Minister. Mr Coveney, former Lord Mayor of Cork, was one of a number of wealthy businessmen who had business contacts with an accountant who had solicited the payments. A Fine Gael spokesman said that Mr Coveney had been assisting the tribunal and had fully answered the questions.

Mr Coveney, a popular figure, and said by friends to have been in "terrific form" last week, was a keen sailor. In 1979 he had competed in the Fastnet race, and had to be rescued by helicopter during ferocious weather.

Last October, five of his children began sailing round the world on his yacht to raise funds for those affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. They were flying back to Cork last night.

Bertie Aherm, the Prime Minister, expressed shock at Mr Coveney's death, describing him as a man of "outstanding character, tremendous ability and great personal charm". John Bruton, the Fine Gael leader, said the death was "an unmitigated tragedy". His colleague and friend was "one of Ireland's most distinguished politicians and a person of great kindness".

Coveney thought to have fallen in accident

Lawrence witness appeal at vigil

By STEWART TENDLER

A FRESH appeal for new witnesses to the murder of Stephen Lawrence to come forward was made yesterday as friends and family held a vigil at the scene of the killing on the eve of an inquiry under a former High Court judge.

The appeal was made by the Bishop of Stepney, the Right Rev John Sentamu, who is an adviser to Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, leading the inquiry. The Bishop said there could still be witnesses who have not come forward despite new appeals last year.

The inquiry was called last year by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, last year after appeals by the Lawrence family for action on the case. Stephen, an 18-year-old student, was stabbed at a bus stop in Eltham, south London, by a white gang in April 1993. Yesterday Alan Michael, a junior Home Office minister, was among more than 100 people at the vigil.

Between 80 and 100 witnesses will be called to the inquiry, including the five white youths arrested for the killing. So far the five have not indicated whether they will attend and could face jail or a £1,000 fine if they refuse to give evidence.

How to spot a hopeless manager

A BOOK certain to command itself to whingeing workforces everywhere is headed for the best-seller lists. *The Psychology of Managerial Incompetence* offers workers the chance to determine whether their boss is a kipper, a seagull or just plain deranged.

Kippers, according to Adrian Furnham, author of the book and professor of psychology at London University, are two-faced and glib. Seagulls are the sort who fly in, dump on the workers, and fly out again.

Yet those are not the worst. The professor thinks employees should be on their guard for managers who are taking leave of their senses.

Professor Furnham writes "Some managers are not only incompetent they are pathologically deranged and mentally unstable. Their style and decisions are often based more on gratifying neurotic needs than making reasoned

Some bosses are plain mad, others are worse.

Robin Young reports

decisions. Neurotic, paranoid and with delusions of grandeur, they can easily lead an organisation to destruction."

His book, subtitled *A Sceptic's Dictionary of Modern Organisation Issues* (published by Whurr on March 23, price £16.95) catalogues methods used by managers to disguise their inadequacies. All, he says, should be read as means of "avoiding decisions and change". In the "temper-tantrum method" the boss goes apoplectic with rage, starts swearing, appears insulted or outraged and may even sweep with indignation. Such displays, the professor diagnoses, are intended to

distract others from the real issue, which is that the boss has no idea what to do.

More pleasant, yet equally frustrating, is the "I'm glad you called method", where any kind of suggestion is met with a change of subject.

In the professor's "hush hush method", the manager takes the person who has made a suggestion to one side to whisper "Do you think that's wise?". An alternative is "the clarification method". When an employee has an idea which the boss cannot handle, he is constantly asked for more information, however pointless, until he abandons the notion.

Another subterfuge the book exposes is "the double-talk method", in which "in-house management jargon" is used to exclude new ideas from unwelcome sources. Should that fail, there remains the "denial method", in which the manager simply denies any kind of change is needed.

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Eton is told it could improve

By DAVID CHARTER

ETON COLLEGE has been told in a largely glowing inspectors' report that there is room for improvement.

The first inspection in modern times of the £14,000-a-year institution in Windsor, Berkshire, is full of praise for its academic standards, extra-curricular activities and pastoral care system. It was visited in January by inspectors for the Head Masters and Headmistresses Conference of top independent schools.

Eton has been told to update its computing resources and advised to prepare an information technology strategy so spending is not wasted. The inspectors are also understood to have said that the pupils suffer from the lack of a sports hall.

The school, founded in 1440, came 20th in *The Times* league table for A-level results last summer, and second to Winchester College in Hampshire among boys-only boarding schools. It has a ratio of one teacher to nine pupils.

The school yesterday refused to release details of the report until they had been sent to parents. John Lewis, the head master, said staff had already been "warmly congratulated" on the findings by the provost and fellows.

Tobacco company admitted link to cancer in 1970

ANTI-SMOKING campaigners claimed yesterday that the tobacco industry's case in forthcoming litigation had been irreparably damaged by the disclosure that as early as 1970 a British tobacco company acknowledged the link between smoking and lung cancer.

A four-page internal memorandum from the general manager of research for Gallaher written in April 1970 was revealed as trial exhibit 21,905 in court proceedings in Minnesota, and has been seized on by the anti-smoking campaign ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) as having "holed the industry's case below the water-line".

The memorandum, addressed to Gallaher's managing director, said that research on beagles exposed to the effects of smoke had proved "beyond all reasonable doubt the causation of lung cancer by smoke". The document will now become a principal exhibit in the British courts where lung-cancer victims are claiming compensation from Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco, which make four fifths of the cigarettes sold in Britain.

The document, the first such to be unearthed regarding a British company, came to light because Gallaher was formerly owned by American Brands, leaving company records open to disclosure in court cases proceeding in the

Anti-smoking group seizes on memo disclosed in court case in America, writes Robin Young

United States. Gallaher, which makes the Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut brands of cigarettes, is being sued by 53 smokers in Britain. A spokesman could not comment yesterday.

In the document, the general manager of research, V.D. Tuchan, reviewed the experiments which had been carried out on "smoking" beagles. He added that "the results of the research would appear to us to remove the controversy regarding the causation of human lung cancer although it does not help us directly with the problem of how to modify our cigarettes".

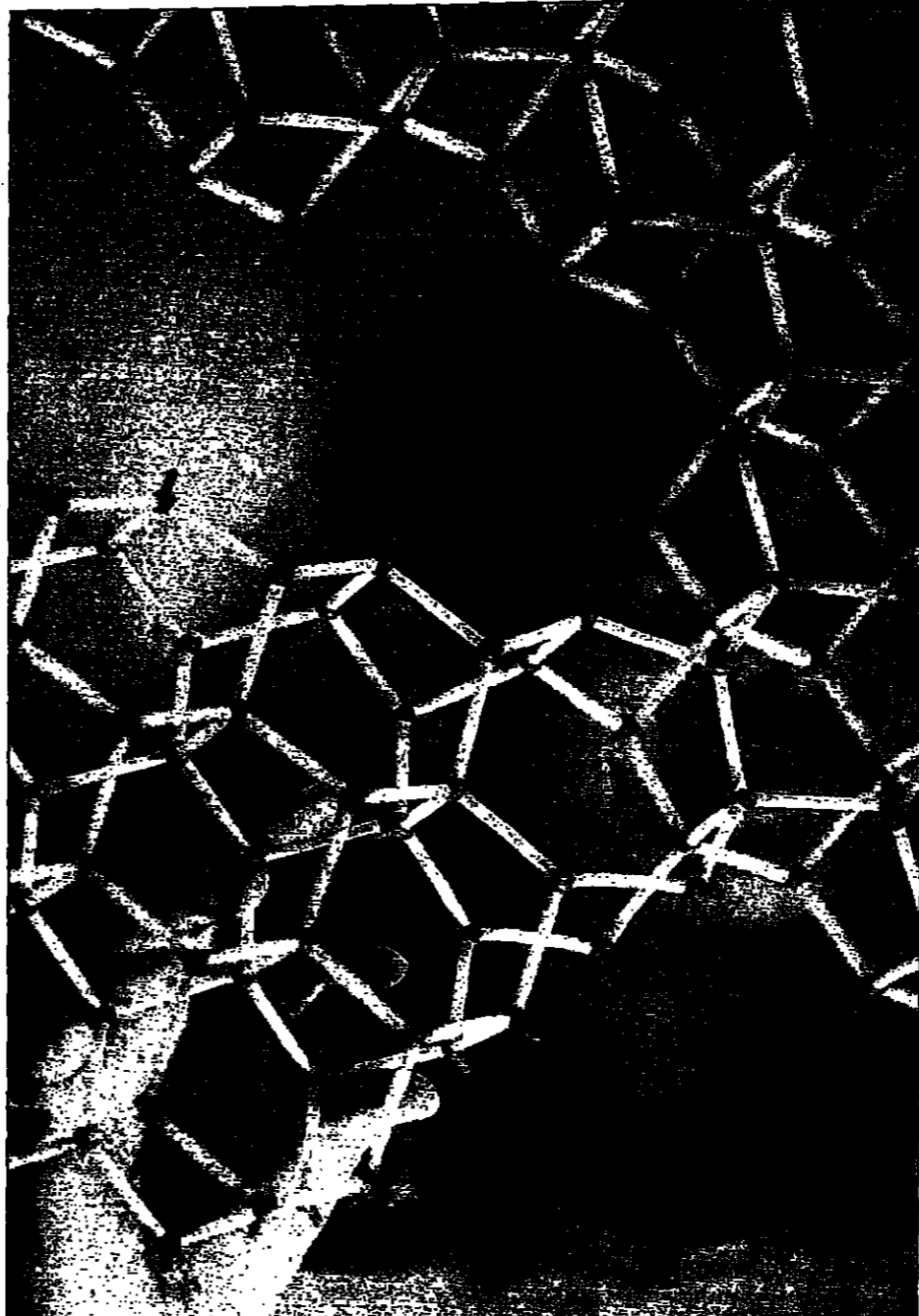
The research featured two experiments. In one, dogs had smoke piped into their lungs, and in the other, the animals breathed smoke through a mask. The analysis said a striking feature of the former was that "practically every dog which smoked suffered significantly from the effect of the smoke". The memorandum was sent to Gallaher's then managing director, with a copy to the general manager of research and development, L.C.C. Pritchard.

Marty Day, the solicitor representing the lung-cancer victims in their case against Gallaher and Imperial, said yesterday: "Their defence is centred on a refusal to accept that there is a link between smoking and lung cancer, yet here we have their own words as long ago as April 1970 admitting that it is beyond all reasonable doubt that the link has been proved."

Last month the plaintiffs' case received a boost when judges ruled that lawyers fighting it on a conditional "no-win, no-fee" basis would not personally have to foot the estimated £9 million legal bill if they lost.

Clive Bates, the director of ASH, said yesterday: "What we now have is a serious document which will blow the industry's arguments out of the water. The evasions and weasel words on smoking and lung cancer have to stop. It really is disgraceful."

Mr Day said his clients' case was that the leading tobacco companies were negligent in that they should have taken heed of the first warnings of the risks of cancer from smoking in the 1950s and have taken steps to reduce the tar content in their products.



Children from schools around the country gathered at Birmingham University at the weekend for the start of Science Week. Marsha Barhanu, above, examines the structure of crystals used in X-ray diffusion. John Battle, page 20

£1-a-time treatment for stroke victims 'in five years'

By IAN MURRAY

TRIALS are under way on a simple treatment for strokes which costs £1 per patient. If successful, it is likely to become the standard treatment within about five years.

Kennedy Lees, director of the acute stroke unit at the Western Infirmary in Glasgow, is recruiting patients from hospitals worldwide.

The treatment involves injecting the patient with magnesium as soon as possible. On average, 60 per cent of stroke patients recover after a first attack while 40 per cent either die or are left severely disabled. A pilot study by Dr Lees's team has found that 70 per cent of patients injected with magnesium recover and he has been awarded a £700,000 grant by the Medical Research Council to carry out a trial on 2,700 patients.

Dr Lees said the treatment was "safe, cheap and easy to administer. No treatment is ever going to be completely successful but we hope that magnesium will make an important lifesaving contribution."

After a stroke, part of the brain is deprived of blood and dies. The surrounding area has a reduced blood supply which means there is insufficient oxygen. This inhibits the ability of the cells to stop calcium building up to a level where it affects the nervous system. Magnesium acts to block the build up of calcium, thus preventing it becoming dangerous.

Hospitals in Britain, North America, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Australia and throughout Europe have been sent numbered boxes containing either magnesium or placebo. When a patient agrees to take part, the hospital calls Glasgow and a computer then chooses a box number. Neither the doctor, patient or hospital will know whether magnesium or the placebo is being used. The patient will also receive all of the other medicine and care normally given to stroke victims.

The results will be coordinated in Glasgow. Recruiting is expected to take three years with a further year to analyse the results.

Walter Holland, chairman of the research and development committee of the Stroke Association, said it was crucially important for treatment to start as soon as possible after an attack. "The patient often doesn't recognise an emergency because there is no pain and the medical profession tend not to regard it as an emergency either."

Dr Lees's work will be shown on BBC1's *Tomorrow's World* on Wednesday.

Albania killing on Greece

McDonald's blamed over hot-drink burn

Disillusioned Whicker turns his back on TV

By CAROL MIDGLEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ALAN WHICKER, the pioneer of the globe-trotting television documentary, is to return to radio after complaining that the current glut of sensational fly-on-the-wall viewing is destroying the national audience.

Mr Whicker, 72, accused television chiefs of excessive dumbing down and lack of creativity. He said programme makers assumed audiences had only a brief attention span and found it easier to provide trivia than information.

His eponymous programme, *Whicker's World*, started in 1959 and pioneered the format of light-hearted but informative looks at the world's powerful and eccentric figures, including the Sultan of Brunei and multimillionaire John Paul Getty. However, Mr Whicker has decided



Whicker: accused TV chiefs of dumbing down

to return to radio, where his broadcast career began, to present *Around Whicker's World* on Radio 2, a six-part series looking back on his travels.

Explaining his decision, he said: "They have dumbing down so much. There are few informed documentaries left." But he conceded that advances

in technology and travel meant that it was now harder than ever to stimulate people and bring them something novel.

"When I started *Whicker's World* it was a window on the world for most people," he said. "In 1959 people didn't travel. Going to Benidorm was the height of sophistication. I could do a *Whicker's World* just about travelling from Bangkok airport into town. Now every second plane that lands there is from Luton."

He said that television bosses wrongly assumed that audiences could not cope with intellectual viewing. "I don't subscribe to the view that the attention span of the audience is ten seconds. If people are interesting enough you can listen to them for 45 minutes," he said.

"But television hasn't got the ideas today and it hasn't got the money."

Radio 4 recruits names from the small screen to host new shows

Bashir, Dimbleby and Snow may offset row over schedule changes, reports Carol Midgley

NEW presenters for Radio 4 will be announced today with the long-awaited changes to schedules. They are expected to include Martin Bashir, the *Panorama* journalist who interviewed Diana, Princess of Wales. He will present a sport show on Friday evenings.

Other new voices will include Peter Snow, who will host a radio version of *Mastermind*, and Jonathan Dimbleby, who will chair a programme to replace *The Moral Maze*. James Boyle, the Radio 4 controller, is hoping that the positive aspects of the new schedules will quell the controversies over the widely-traded disappearance of old stalwarts and changes to the timings of favourites such as *The Archers* and *Woman's Hour*.

The BBC has tried to reassure listeners with promises of pleasant surprises among the commissions that will fill the slots of axed programmes in the new schedule, which begins on April 1. Matthew Bannister, Director of BBC Radio, said: "It will be good to talk about what is actually going to be in the Radio 4 schedule rather than what is not. We have some great programmes on the way."

Mr Boyle has consulted widely about

the moves announced last summer, which include the axing of *Kaleidoscope*, *Afternoon Shift*, *Sport On 4*, *Breakaway*, *Week Ending*, *Does He Take Sugar?*, *Mediumwave*, *Call Ed Sturton*, *Medicine Now*, *Science Now* and *Going Places*. The *Archers* will gain a sixth weekly episode on Sunday evenings, but each episode will be cut by two minutes. Today will stretch from 6am until 9am, pushing *Farming Today* back to an earlier slot.

Mr Boyle has said that the changes were necessary to maintain listeners throughout the day. Research had shown that listeners were turning off in large numbers after *Today* and through the morning, even if they were still at home or in cars and able to listen.

□ Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the

BBC, will have a final confrontation this week with MPs and Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, over plans to move Radio 4's *Yesterday In Parliament* to long wave (Raymond Snoddy writes). He will face a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party tonight and have a private meeting with Miss Boothroyd tomorrow.

The governors of the BBC will decide on Wednesday on the future of parliamentary broadcasting, leaving little time to assess the final round of consultations with Parliament. Subject to what happens in the meeting with Miss Boothroyd, the likelihood is that the BBC will give parliamentary broadcasting more hours a year but on long wave, which has fewer listeners than FM.

When the plan was announced to take *Yesterday In Parliament* out of its slot on the end of *Today*, Miss Boothroyd told Sir Christopher that the proposed reshuffling was not viewed by parliamentarians "as meeting your public service responsibilities". Some MPs have since accused the BBC of "dumping" parliamentary broadcasting on long wave. The BBC has replied that anyone who wants to hear *Yesterday In Parliament* will still be able to find it.

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Going on holiday by satellite

PEOPLE should soon be able to call up on screen satellite pictures of their chosen holiday destination before they book (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The application is one possible use of a new space programme to be launched today by John Battle, the Science Minister, and Antonio Rodota, director-general of the European Space Agency, at a London press conference.

Mr Battle says that the Government is committing £20 million to the programme, which will develop satellite technology for a number of possible applications.

Among them are the use of satellites to deliver long-distance education and medical services, and to monitor climate change. The Government hopes that the announcement will show it is determined to end years of decline in science spending.

John Battle, page 20

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THE TIMES MONDAY MARCH 16 1998

Albanians admit killing Britons on Greek island

TWO Albanian farm workers have confessed to the killings of a British couple at their retirement home on the island of Cephalonia, Greek police said yesterday.

It also emerged that Roy Eccles, 55, and his wife Judith, 49, had been stabbed to death with a knife and a pitchfork after waking as the intruders broke in. Police had originally said that Mr and Mrs Eccles were killed as they slept.

The men, in their twenties, were arrested on the neighbouring island of Levkas after a tip-off from a member of the Albanian immigrant community on Cephalonia. Detectives said the pair had admitted stabbing the couple, then ransacking their house in the hill village of Karmirarata, in the hope of finding cash. They fled last night named one of the Albanians as Labros Pappas, 22, who had lived in the same village as the

Police say farm workers confessed to stabbings after bungled break-in, writes Adrian Lee

Eccles. Police sources said that in a confession one of the two men claimed that they had intended to kill the couple and took a knife only to prise open the patio door. But the window broke, waking them.

Police were waiting for the results of DNA and forensic tests before bringing charges. Blood found near a broken balcony door at the murder scene is being tested for a match with one of the suspects and police said they also had fingerprint evidence.

Since the killings on Thursday, more than 100 Albanians have been questioned and fingerprinted. It emerged then that the two men, who had applied for residency of Cephalonia, were missing. They were arrested at gunpoint in the town of Nidri after a brief chase on foot on Saturday afternoon, and signed confessions yesterday at the police station in Lixourion, a few miles from the murder scene.

The breakthrough was welcomed by British expatriots but the Eccleses' closest friends, Richard and Jan Coward, said they intended to sell their home in Cephalonia and return to England.

Mr and Mrs Eccles of St Neots, Cambridgeshire, moved to the Greek island in October, building a house about 300 yards away from the Cowards' home. Mr Coward, 52, a former builder, said: "If I stay I have got to look out on a memory from my kitchen



Coming home: Richard and Jan Coward, the Eccleses' closest friends, are leaving their villa in Cephalonia

window every day. The dream we had was for the four of us to live here together."

He said Cephalonia was being ruined by an influx of Albanians and the once crime-free island was no longer safe. Each morning, up to 70 gather on the seaford seeking casual labour for £15 a day.

Police said the crime was probably linked to a burglary at the home of another British couple, Richard and Debbie Dawes, after Christmas. "It had got round that there were rich pickings from the British," a senior detective said. The Dawes lost property and £25,000. They said they now

slept with a knife under their pillows after the killings.

Judith Eccles' brother, Derek Wooding, and her sister-in-law, Sandra, who arrived for a three-week holiday on Cephalonia last Tuesday, will fly home today.

Yesterday, a procession of Greek villagers arrived at the

Eccleses' home, which has spectacular views to the coast, to lay flowers at the door and offer sympathy to the remaining Britons. Vaitis Maroulis, president of the village council, said: "The whole village is sad because they were very good people who wanted to spend their lives here."

The truth behind the new 'mafia'

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN TIRANA

THE Albanian mafia has become a legend in Greece, the Balkans, Italy and the US. Like all legends, it has a mixture of truth and fiction. The Sicilian Mafia originated as a protection network for the poor. The Albanian networks have inherited the same protective instincts.

Albanians are at the bottom of the economic and social heap in Europe. Their history has not encouraged anyone to trust state institutions very much. The family and its codes are everything. The Besa, or Oath of Trust, puts deep obligations on every family member. When Albanians emigrate, they take the code with them. The criminal element take the places other upwardly mobile mafias have vacated.

Many Albanians in Greece are treated appallingly by Greek employers. Some feel that they need protection links to survive.

Guns for free, page 11

McDonald's is blamed over hot-drink burns

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

TEN claims, nearly all from children, are being prepared against McDonald's, alleging burns as a result of hot drinks.

Legal aid has been granted or is being applied for in all the cases. The customers all say that by serving drinks at high temperatures, McDonald's is to blame for a series of injuries, some of which have resulted in hospital treatment, scarring and skin-graft operations.

McDonald's will robustly resist any such claims, which are at the investigative stage, with legal aid limited to £2,500. But in a sign that the claims may lead to the first group action against the restaurant, the legal aid applications are being co-ordinated by the Legal Aid Board's office in London.

In one case a 16-month-old boy was at a London branch of the chain in a buggy with his three-year old brother and grandmother in May last year when she was jostled and tea poured down the boy's back.

He suffered 15 per cent burns and may have to wear a surgical vest until he is 15.

In a second case a girl aged 19 months was badly burnt by hot coffee at a toddlers' birth-

day party last October at a central London branch. Jane Jorgensen, her mother, said: "The coffee was put down in front of her by another parent. She thought this was another of the lovely fizzy drinks she had just tried."

"It happened in seconds. We were right by her and pulled her clothes off immediately and threw Coca-Cola over her. Her skin on her front literally peeled off."

Two days later her mother took her back to hospital and she was put in intensive care with toxic shock syndrome, a potentially fatal condition.

Mike Love, a spokesman for McDonald's, said the company had not yet received details of any claims. But he added: "We regard the safety of our customers as of the highest priority and we take cases of this sort extremely seriously and will investigate them thoroughly."

Westminster Cathedral has accepted sponsorship from McDonald's, which has a branch close to it. A "small sum" has been given by the company in support of an art competition organised by Oremus, the Roman Catholic cathedral's monthly bulletin.



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New MPs reveal their membership of the drug generation



Prior admits he smoked cannabis in his 20s

JACK STRAW ruled out a royal commission into drug control yesterday in spite of evidence that some new MPs would support a review of drugs legislation. Eighteen admitted using drugs in the past. The Home Secretary said a royal commission would be needed only if the Government was uncertain about what to do. However Mr Straw said the Government would look at anything discovered by inquiries being carried out by a Lords select committee and the Police Foundation.

Stewart Tendler on a challenge to Straw from the politicians who admit inhaling

police for selling cannabis, was commenting on a survey for London Weekend Television's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme yesterday. Questionnaires were sent to all 243 of last May's new intake of MPs. Out of 81 who responded, 22 per cent admitted they had used illegal drugs, 64 per cent said that friends or associates had used drugs, 65 per cent said they would welcome a commission and 51 per cent said they believed that the current laws on cannabis were "too harsh".

Mr Prior, the new Conservative MP for North Norfolk, disclosed yesterday that he had smoked cannabis in his 20s and believed the law could no longer be consistently enforced. Mr Prior, son of Lord Prior, the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said: "I did inhale. You can wear a pin-stripe suit, be utterly conventional, and still roll a joint." He emphasised that he had a "completely open mind" on the issue of decriminalisation but said it

should be looked at by a royal commission. Mr Straw, speaking on Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, said that he did not accept the argument that decriminalisation of cannabis would break the progression of drug users from soft to hard drugs. He said that had not happened in Holland, and drugs wars meant that Amsterdam's murder rate was three times that in London. The Home Secretary said it was right to have different penalties for

soft and hard drugs: "I've not seen any good reason for decriminalisation but plenty against it. If you decriminalised these drugs there would be a massive increase in consumption. The evidence is that we are stabilising consumption." In a wide-ranging interview, the Home Secretary also rebuffed calls by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, to end mandatory life sentences for murder. Lord Bingham had said that allowing politicians to set release dates flew

in the face of democracy and justice. Mr Straw said that giving Home Secretaries the final decision in fact put the public at less risk than leaving the decision to the Parole Board. Evidence showed that if the Parole Board had the sole power, the risk of reoffending would be tripled, he said. In the case of discretionary life sentences for rape, manslaughter and arson, the final decision lay with the Parole Board and 26 per cent of offenders were recalled to prison. In cases where Home Secretaries had the final decision, the reoffending rate was 8 per cent.

Forget ties with Labour, Ashdown tells party

By Polly Newton

PADDY ASHDOWN told his party yesterday to stop "navigating" over links with Labour and seize the chance to influence the political agenda. Opportunities for the Liberal Democrats had never been greater, he said, with the Tories "shell-shocked" by defeat and Labour struggling to find its way in government. "It's time for us to reclaim our historic role as the leaders of ideas in Britain." Mr Ashdown insisted that the Liberal Democrats should concentrate on developing new policies, such as on cutting unemployment, rather than on strategy towards other parties. He was addressing the party's spring conference, at Southport, the day after activists expressed scepticism over possible moves to increase co-operation with Labour.

Under a motion backed by the vast majority of delegates, Mr Ashdown would have to secure the support of three-quarters of his MPs and three-quarters of the party executive before agreeing closer ties. If he did not have that support, he would have to put the issue to conference. If two-thirds of the conference did not support his proposal there would have to be a membership ballot, requiring a simple majority for Mr Ashdown to proceed. Anti-coalitionists hailed the vote as a victory. But Mr Ashdown claimed he was delighted by the outcome which, he said, proved the party's support for his policy of constructive opposition. Sources close to Mr Ashdown insisted that the new arrangements could be less restrictive because they would give the entire party membership the final say over closer ties. The Liberal Democrat leadership believes it would be easier to win the support of the party as a whole than of the traditionally more purist activists who attend conference. Writing in this week's *Liberal Democrat News*, Mr Ashdown says that the successes achieved since the party was founded ten years ago were the result of the party's willingness to co-operate. "The time may come when we must consider, for instance, a coalition - if we win proportional representation, then that seems quite possible in the next decade. Then we



Paddy Ashdown addressing the Liberal Democrat spring conference, at Southport, Merseyside, yesterday

will have to make that choice, together, and through a decision at conference. But that is not where we are now." In his speech yesterday Mr Ashdown also accused the Government of not keeping its pledges to make education a top priority. "It just will not do to promise education, education, education" and then start with cut, cut, and cut," he declared. Stephen Byers, a junior Education Minister, responded that the Government was putting £1.3 billion into school repairs and an extra £165 million into universities.

Attack on newspaper pricing

PARTY activists yesterday backed the campaign to outlaw predatory pricing by newspapers (Polly Newton writes). After a short debate on competition in the media, delegates voted by a large majority in favour of a motion attacking Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. Baron McNally, the Liberal

Democrat peer who last month successfully tabled an amendment to the Competition Bill that would outlaw predatory pricing, said press freedom was essential to democracy. He supported the motion that criticised Mr Murdoch over HarperCollins's decision not to publish Chris Patten's book on his time as Governor of Hong Kong. The motion said: "Rupert Murdoch's conduct ...

makes it essential that the Government does not seek to overrule the amendments to the Competition Bill." But John Winder, of North Devonshire Liberal Democrats and a former assistant parliamentary editor of *The Times*, said the issues of predatory pricing and Mr Patten's book were not as closely connected as suggested, nor had freedom of speech been compromised.

Portillo keen to play a part in Hague's team

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

MICHAEL PORTILLO declared yesterday that he was prepared to join William Hague's team in any capacity, including as Tory party chairman, as he paved the way for his political comeback. The former Defence Secretary also said he had been misunderstood when he had served in John Major's Cabinet, because "I was not very good at explaining myself". Interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday, he denied that he had been offered the job as party chairman after Mr Hague became the Tory leader. He said he was relieved that he had not been, because it had given him time to think, but he said he would not rule that out in the future. Mr Portillo said: "I do want to be part of the Hague team and I will do whatever I can."

He said that he would like to get selected for a seat and "hopefully thereafter get elected for a seat and be back in Parliament". However, Mr Portillo played down suggestions that he could still be Prime Minister, saying that at 44 he might be "too old to consider it". Indicating that he had discussed his fightback with Mr Hague, he said he would spend the next year "explaining the Conservatives' policies through their policies, not planning a series of speeches and lectures and also preparing a television series on the future of the party. One



Portillo: "Not good at explaining myself"

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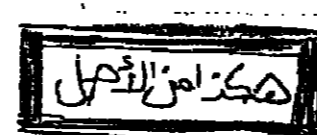
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Alan Hamilton bids a sentimental farewell to our 1805 warehouse

THE TIMES is moving house this week, but we trust you will not notice.

We, however, will. We are only crossing the street, but shifting a daily newspaper without losing an edition is a trickier operation than moving a regiment. Among the inevitability of gremlins in the gismos and things getting lost in the night, the paper must come out without so much as a stumble.

Such are the perils of removal that this is only the fifth uprooting in our 213 years of publication. From next weekend *The Times* will be written and edited in an unashamedly modernist office building just outside the perimeter wall of our present Wapping home, to which we shall be comfortably connected by an umbilical footbridge.

Some of us are already there, struggling with the culture-shock of colour-coordinated office furniture and wholly unnatural tidiness. Front-line news departments will move at the end of this week. Our own success has forced us out of the historic warehouse that has been our home since 1806. Larger papers and more sections mean more people and we have come to find ourselves uncomfortably cramped, working more cheek-by-jowl with colleagues than we might

like, and sharing computer screens with them.

Our new home, like our last, was not specifically designed to house a newspaper. Of striking appearance, it was built in 1992 as a speculative office development to house small business units, discreetly shoehorned into a plot flanked by dockside warehouses transformed into desirable apartments.

Rick Mather, its American-born architect, who has practised in Britain for 30 years, says he designed it to be in keeping with the scale of its surroundings, and yet to be noticed. Its frontage on The Highway, the main arterial

route from the City of London eastwards, is undeniably memorable, with its copious use of glass and an oversailing concrete roof punctured by large holes.

Mr Mather won a citation from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1992 for La Lumière's merits as a building of low-energy consumption. An oppressed but substantial minority of those who will now work in it appreciate Mr Mather's inclusion of balconies and roof gardens. There they may smoke while gazing eastwards to a view of the Canary Wharf tower.

The move means that we vacate our warehouse with its

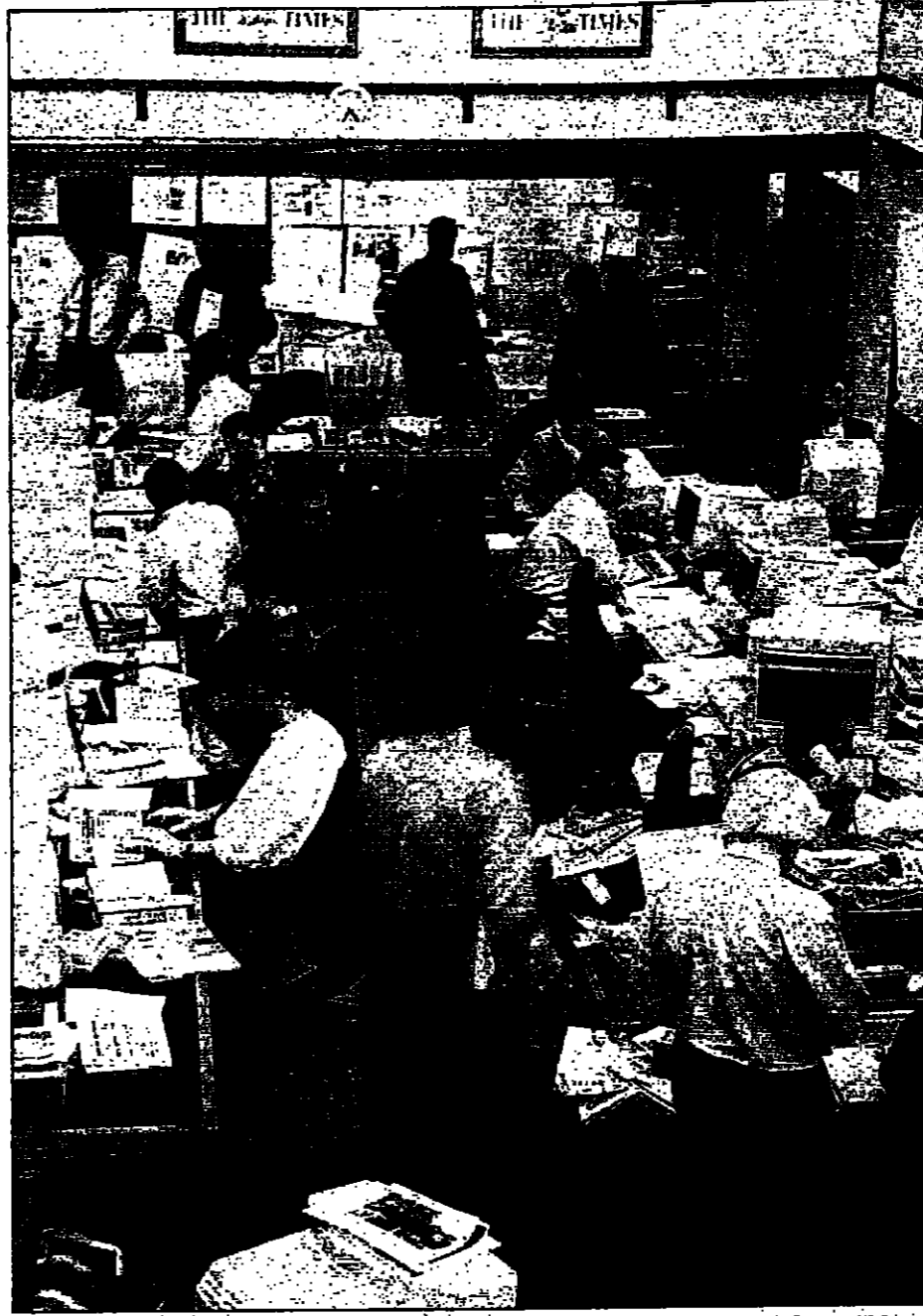
three-foot thick walls and cellars like a cathedral crypt, which was not designed for a newspaper either, although it served us well enough.

The Times was a mere 20 years old when, in the year of the Battle of Trafalgar, a warehouse was opened on the quayside of the newly constructed London Docks. The long low building that became our office held brandy in its cellars, and medicinal herbs — notably iodine — on the ground floor, which became our newsroom.

London's docks moved downriver in the 1960s to meet the advance of containerisation. Our warehouse fell into disuse and became forgotten behind its high wall until the site was acquired by Rupert Murdoch in the mid-1980s. The building was rapidly converted in 1985 to house *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, whose offices needed to be inside a site that became the target of a year's picketing and demonstrations after News International, parent company of *The Times*, moved its newspapers to the new printing plant. The warehouse we now leave is the oldest remnant of London's original docks; appropriately, it will now house our expanded archives department, where scholars may come and delve into our long history.



The Times's new home — La Lumière, in Wapping



Inside the historic warehouse that has been *The Times* newsroom since 1986

Wreck linked to 1779 rebel

A FAMILY of divers believes that it has found the wreck of the *Bon Homme Richard*, flagship of the American hero John Paul Jones (Robin Young writes).

John Adams, his sons Gary, Neil and Richard, and their friend, Tony Green, have registered the find. Mr Adams, 52, from Filey, said: "We are anxious our find does not attract hordes of looters." Timbers and other items from the wreck, found off

Flamborough Head, North Yorkshire, are being examined by experts, including archaeologists from St Andrews University.

John Paul Jones, a Scot, fought for the rebels in the War of Independence. Later the French king gave him the *Bon Homme Richard* and two other ships to encourage him to become a privateer, preying on British merchantmen. In 1779 his three ships attacked a British convoy off

Filey, escorted by the 50-gun frigate *Serapis* and a 16-gun sloop, *Countess of Scarborough*. The 40-gun *Bon Homme Richard* and the *Serapis* battled for hours, watched by cliff-top crowds.

Jones, who was later to found the American Navy and become its first admiral, took the *Serapis* but his own ship sank with many of the crew. He swam ashore from the stricken *Serapis* and eventually reached America.

Protest at St Patrick's Day 'paganism'

By AUDREY MAGER
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ROMAN Catholics are staging an alternative St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin tomorrow in protest at what they see as hedonism and paganism in the official festivities.

The Our Lady of the Rosary national crusade is taking to the streets with crosses, rosary beads and religious statues to highlight the lack of prayer and devotion. Marie Walker said her organisation had acted after learning that this year's parade theme was magic and

wizardry. "The parade is full of the pagan symbols of snakes, wizards and wartslocks that St Patrick came to Ireland to get rid of. The work of the Devil is going and we have to stop it," Miss Walker said.

At least 400 people are expected to take part, walking in the opposite direction to the official parade. The group applied in January to be among the 3,400 participants in the official parade but was refused permission because it declined to adhere to the magic theme.

More than 400,000 people are expected to attend the parade, which has shifted in recent years from being a dowdy after-

noon show of companies advertising their wares into a four-day carnival of street theatre, music and fireworks.

The organisers ban religious and political groups. The only Church input is a joint blessing of the shamrock at the start. Marie Claire Sweeney, the parade's executive director, denied that they were ignoring St Patrick's Christian message.

"The whole parade is a celebration of Christianity. I cannot think of anything more spiritual than expressing yourself through art," Ms Sweeney said.

Photograph, page 24

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Susan Oliver is aged 29 and single. She lives in Oxford and works as a freelance journalist. Susan intends studying for an MBA while continuing her work and is remortgaging her flat with a loan of £35,000 against a value of £65,000. She will raise capital of £10,000 with her Personal Choice Mortgage and use it to help to fund her studies. The free remortgage package and flexibility were key factors in her decision to switch her mortgage to Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct.

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Eye oop put the back on



Ey oop! Soaps put the accent back on dialects

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TELEVISION soap operas are helping to preserve regional patterns of speech that had been disappearing gradually for 50 years, academics have found.

Characters such as *Coronation Street's* Vera Duckworth and the cast of *EastEnders* and *Emmerdale* have made regional accents fashionable, says a team that is updating the only comprehensive study of English dialects.

Professor Katie Wales, whose Leeds University department carried out the original research, said: "It was thought that modern communications would cause a levelling of dialects but the regional variations we hear through the soaps make people quite proud of their regional identity."

Advertising campaigns such as those by Tetley, Hovis and Colman have a similar effect, Professor Wales said. "For a long time after the war, people tended to adopt standard English, partly because they thought it was the way to get on," she said. "Now a series of regional standards seems to be emerging, based



Role model: Liz Dawn as Vera Duckworth

on the big cities." Harold Orton, one of her predecessors, produced the only linguistic atlas of England after his appointment to the university more than 50 years ago.

Clive Upton, who worked on the project as a graduate student, will update the work while a colleague transfers the archive onto CD-Rom.

Professor Orton chose 313 English small rural communities to capture the purest dialects of the time. Researchers were dispatched for a week at a time with canbersones

recording equipment to seek out elderly residents with little formal education who had rarely left their village. Questionnaires were based on their experience of farming and rural life, the answers meticulously noted with phonetic transcription.

Juhani Kleemola, who is editing Orton's 12-inch gramophone recordings and dozen volumes of transcription with the aid of a £50,000 grant from the Leverhulme Trust, finds some Northumbrian dialects impenetrable but says the material is invaluable. "In Finland we have 25,000 hours of recordings in a state-funded archive but the 60 hours we have here are all there."

Although most of the dialects of the 1940s have softened as the rural communities have become less isolated, a surprising number of words and phrases have survived. Dr Kleemola quotes "spell" for splinter in Yorkshire and "awkward", meaning clumsy, in Nottinghamshire. But Orton's collection of 40 expressions for belching may have declined.

A conference in Leeds next week will celebrate the centenary of Orton's birth and help to launch the new research. Dr Upton hopes that other universities and sixth-forms will carry out fieldwork.

The main research is expected to take five years and to concentrate as much on urban, as rural areas. Dr Upton said: "There are different influences on language now — age, sex and socio-economic status are all significant."

Youth culture is a fertile area of innovation, with white teenagers adopting terms such as "wicked" from black communities. Dr Upton said: "The language may be becoming less diverse in its minutiae but the layers of linguistic influences are more complex than ever."

CONKA-BELLS AND MASH

Regional alternatives, taken from Harold Orton's *Survey of English Dialects*, published in the 1950s

ICICLES

dinkler bells (west Dorset, west Somerset) dinklers (central Dorset, east Somerset) conka-bells (North Devon) daglets (West Sussex, north Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire) ice-candles (east Dorset, Lincolnshire, East Riding) ice-shockles (north Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham, parts of Lancashire and north Yorkshire) sey-bells (south Devon) tanklets (north Northumberland)

MAKING TEA

brew (Lancashire, Cheshire, south Cumbria, parts of Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Essex, Suffolk, Shropshire) draw (London and parts of Home Counties) mash (Yorkshire, north Cumbria, Norfolk, most of north-east England and the Midlands) mask (Northumberland) seald (Staffordshire and parts of West Midlands) soak/sleep (Cornwall, most of Devon, parts of Dorset) wet (most of southern England from east Devon and as far north as Worcester)



Dr Tyer with a sample: the technique has been used on aircraft engines

The bra? It's like an engine on a plane, really

Nigel Hawkes finds an engineer tackling a problem of comfort

ONE of the great challenges of engineering may be a little closer to solution. Academics have joined the search for the perfect bra.

A technique developed to study dynamic forces at work on jet engines and bridges is now being used to monitor the female form. Dr John Tyer, a mechanical engineer conducting the work at Loughborough University, said: "The problem is just the same as that of an engine pod mounted on a wing."

This week, the annual congress of the Institute of Physics in Brighton will hear how he is using lasers to study how a bra behaves under stationary and moving loads. He said: "You have to be able to see how the bra behaves when the woman moves. Then you can try to make it comfortable, and anatomically correct, as well as fashionable."

The technique of laser interferometry, developed at Loughborough 20 years ago, records how a three-dimensional surface changes in shape when a force is applied to it. A laser beam bounced off the surface is compared with a beam of the same frequency, to produce interference patterns caused by the waves being slightly out of step. Dr Tyer said: "It has traditionally been used on aircraft engines, bridges,

pipelines, that sort of thing. But a few years ago we thought of using it to study the human body."

Since then his team has studied the hip joint and looked at the functioning of hip implants. Very often, Dr Tyer said, the effect of the implant was to over-stiffen the joint, which meant the bone had to do less work and wasted away, loosening the implant. "We could design an implant that didn't suffer this problem but manufacturers have not shown a lot of interest," he said. "They don't want to know what is wrong."

At the request of orthodontists, they have also investigated the physics of a punch on the jaw, showing how a bone distorts under an impact. Putting the metal screws in the wrong place when repairing broken jaws can accidentally set up stresses elsewhere.

The study of the bra is at an early stage. So far they have looked at the changing forces involved as women breathe and walk. Dr Tyer said: "Once you understand how the movement and vibration affect the bra, you can introduce real engineering design. Then you can make it comfortable, and anatomically correct, as well as glamorous."

Fashion, page 16

Car-seat static could ignite petrol fumes

MOTORISTS at filling stations can crackle with so much electricity there is a remote risk of a spark igniting petrol fumes, physicists will hear this week. A car seat can produce a static charge of more than 15,000 volts, according to Dr John Chubb.

He will tell scientists at the physics congress in Brighton on Wednesday that simply getting out of a car seat can create a static voltage on a

person's body of 15,000 volts or more. A charge of 3,500 volts is enough to produce a spark and shock.

If the motorist is wearing shoes that are good insulators, such as those with synthetic soles, the charge will stay for a short while — which could be a hazard at filling stations. Dr Chubb said: "It is a small but conceivable risk, although I've never heard of an explosion happening." To

get enough of a spark to ignite petrol the static charge would need to be of at least 10,000 volts. But considerably higher charges were possible, depending on what a motorist was wearing. Dr Chubb said. Nylon was the worst material. "What you can't legislate for or require people to do is to choose their clothing to match their cars. The onus is on car manufacturers to develop new seat materials."

A hard surface coating with a structure like diamond is finding uses in products ranging from dental instruments to food packaging. Professor Joe Franks of Brunel University will tell the congress. Diamond-like carbon (DLC) can be applied to a surface at room temperature and has some of the properties of diamond — hardness, corrosion resistance and slipperiness.

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Israelis attack 'colonialist' Cook

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM
AND MICHAEL BINYON
IN CAIRO

The Foreign Secretary's Middle East tour starts on an ill-tempered note with row over visit to settlement

A SENIOR Israeli official said yesterday that Robin Cook was displaying a colonialist attitude towards Israel as the row over the Foreign Secretary's plan to visit a controversial Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem deepened.

PLO representative whose role Israel refuses to recognise, Mr Cook repeated at the weekend that he had no intention of changing his plans. He said he had discussed the idea with EU foreign ministers and they had all agreed that he should go to Har Homa. "There was unanimous agreement that I should make it clear that Britain does not support the expansion of settlements," he said. "It is not just Britain that is involved."

will make Israel's position clear in no uncertain terms," the official said. Diplomatic sources said that the Israeli Government was keen to separate its row with Mr Cook from Mr Netanyahu's good personal relationship with Tony Blair, and not to upset the Prime Minister's plans to visit Israel next month to join celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Israel's statehood.

lehem, is intended to house 32,000 Jews on land annexed by Israel after its capture from Jordan in the 1967 war. Britain, together with all other members of the EU, regards it as occupied territory.

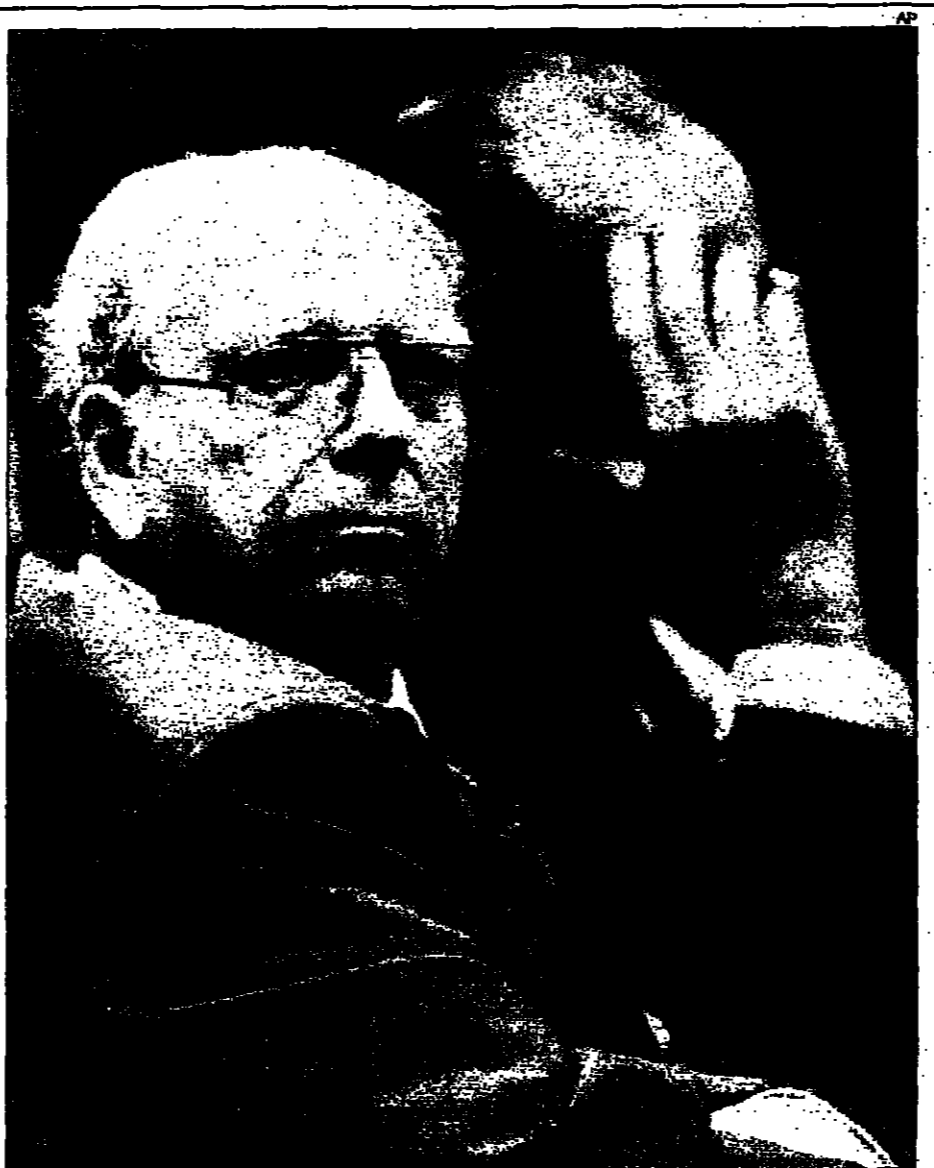
building, Mr Cook will tell Mr Mubarak that Britain is to introduce new laws to make the plotting of overseas terrorism a criminal offence in Britain and is to stop fundraising by dissident Islamic entities in London. But he is unlikely to accede to the demand for the extradition of several Egyptian exiles.



The new Terios.
A small car to look up to.

Journalist shootings attacked by agency

London: The global news and information company Reuters said yesterday that it was deeply concerned at the shooting of nine journalists by Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Hebron and would seek an investigation.



Halevy: recalled from Brussels to set Israel's bungling spy agency to rights

New Mossad chief told to restore battered morale

ISRAEL yesterday approved Ephraim Halevy, the London-born nephew of the late Sir Isaiah Berlin, as head of the Mossad at a time when the spy agency's fortunes are at their lowest ebb since its foundation in 1951.

Iraq halts war of words as it tries to sweet-talk US

IRAQ, embarking on a charm offensive to end its international isolation and secure the end of trade sanctions, has urged Washington to "cooperously" change its policies and normalise relations with Baghdad.

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Guns for free spur Kosovo resistance

ALBANIAN smugglers crossing the Serbian border over the weekend were openly offering free weapons and ammunition to aid the independence struggle of their ethnic brethren in Kosovo.

They provided evidence of a thriving arms trade linking Kukës, in northern Albania, with Prizren, Kosovo's southernmost town and a historic centre of Albanian resistance to Ottoman and Slav rule.

Despite four Serb police roadblocks between Prizren and the Albanian border at Blata e Poshtme, smugglers at a large market south of the town said that arms could be brought in safely across the mountains. In Prizren every Albanian questioned gave wholehearted support to the Kosovo Liberation Army, suggesting that the Serbian security forces will have to stretch their "anti-terrorist" operations far beyond Kosovo's central Drenica region to doze the flames of revolt.

"We saw on television what the Serbs have been doing and we will do what we can to



Tom Walker reports from Prizren on the paranoia of a would-be Balkan state on the edge of an ethnic explosion

help," said a 65-year-old Albanian woman from Kukës, ostensibly selling packets of macaroni. Her son said that normally the asking price for pistols and Kalashnikovs started at about \$20, but now the guns, mostly looted from army depots in Albania last spring, were available free.

Not only Albanians seemed to be taking advantage of the gun racket. Several Belgrade Jeeps filled with burly Serb skinheads crossed the market towards the border, and Prizren's Serb population is equally prone to the paranoia of its Albanian neighbours.

With propaganda now being pumped out by Serb radio and television in the area, cataloguing dozens of unprovoked Albanian attacks on Serb and Montenegrin house-

holds, Kosovo is being pushed towards civil war in much the same way as areas of Croatia and Bosnia were seven years ago. Albanian television accounts of Serb atrocities can be equally exaggerated and both sides are convinced the other is armed to the teeth.

"They pretend to be our friends, but they are digging our graves behind our backs," an elderly Serb woman said as she emerged from the hairdresser's. "All the Serbs here were armed in the 1990s and that is why we need the weapons," Jozef, an Albanian bar owner, said.

There can be few towns as resonantly Balkan as Prizren, where seven competing communities lie stubbornly blind to their similarities among a jumble of churches, mosques

and bazaars. The population comprises Albanians, Serbs, Turks, Jews, Gypsies, Muslim Bektashis — among them several dervishes — and a Serb hill tribe with Muslim origins known locally as the Gorans.

The town is remembered by Balkan historians as the birthplace of the Prizren League, a grouping of Albanian politicians, radicals and academics which in 1878 united to defy the great powers' dismemberment of Albania. One of the league's first acts was to address a memorandum to Disraeli, the British Prime Minister, at the Berlin Congress, which read: "Just as we are not and do not want to be Turks, so we shall oppose with all our might anyone who would like to turn us into Slave or Austrians or Greeks. We want to be Albanians."

The league was crushed in 1881 when the Ottomans marched into Kosovo and there is tangible fear that Belgrade may be tempted to follow that example.

Letters, page 21



A boy holds a poster of Mother Teresa during a peace protest by tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, yesterday. The demonstrators want Kosovo to be an independent state

WORLD IN BRIEF

Ruling on Bosnian city delayed again

Brcko, Bosnia-Herzegovina: International mediators avoided a decision yesterday that could have touched off new violence in Bosnia, by postponing a ruling on control of the strategic town of Brcko. A decision will now be made after Bosnian elections in September. It is the third time a ruling has been postponed.

Mediators said the delay was a concession to the more moderate new Bosnian Serb leadership that holds Brcko. Both sides, the Serbs and the Muslim-Croat Federation, have threatened to resume fighting if control goes to the other half. Brcko, supervised by an American, Robert Farrand, is the only territorial question left undecided by the Dayton peace agreement. (AP)

Epic chariot races scratched

Rome: A plan to run races on the Appian Way using chariots from the epic film *Ben Hur* was shelved after protests from environmentalists and animal rights groups (Richard Owen writes). Liberto Mirenna, the organiser, said the chariots — driven by stunt men from the film, now in their seventies — would be confined to the grounds of a restaurant. A spokesman for Rome city council said the races, part of an attempt to revive the Appian Way as a tourist attraction, needed further study. However, Gina Lollobrigida, the actress, who lives on the Appian Way, applauded the scheme.

Island orders out film star



Moroni: Port authorities in the Comoros Islands ordered a yacht, carrying the American film star Michael Douglas, left, and a small party, to leave after questioning the crew for several hours. They said the yacht arrived in Moroni, the capital, without warning. Local politicians said the yacht had been placed under tight security because of fears of a possible link with last year's secession of Anjouan and Moheli islands from the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros. (Reuters)

Dhaka party quits coalition

Dhaka: The minority Jatiya Party of Hussain Muhammad Ershad, the former President, has quit Bangladesh's "national consensus" Government, a party spokesman said. The party gave crucial support to the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Prime Minister, after it won the 1996 general election, enabling it to form a government. But the league now has an absolute majority in the 330-member parliament after winning by-elections. (AFP)

Iran villages hit by quake

Tehran: Five people were killed and 50 injured when a powerful earthquake, measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale, rocked the carpet-weaving region of Golbaf in southeast Iran, international relief agencies and Iranian government reports said. Iranian state radio quoted the Interior Ministry's emergency headquarters as saying 15 villages had been damaged in the quake on Saturday night, which also cut off electricity and water supplies in several villages. (Reuters)

'Pager' pulses cut off birth

Beijing: A male contraceptive gadget developed in China is the size of a pager, fits in a man's underwear and emits electronic sperm-killing pulses which in one hour can render a man sterile for up to a month, the official Xinhua news agency said. Full fertility returns two months after a man stops using the contraption, the agency said, adding that it was hoped that the device would be marketed in the near future. (Reuters)

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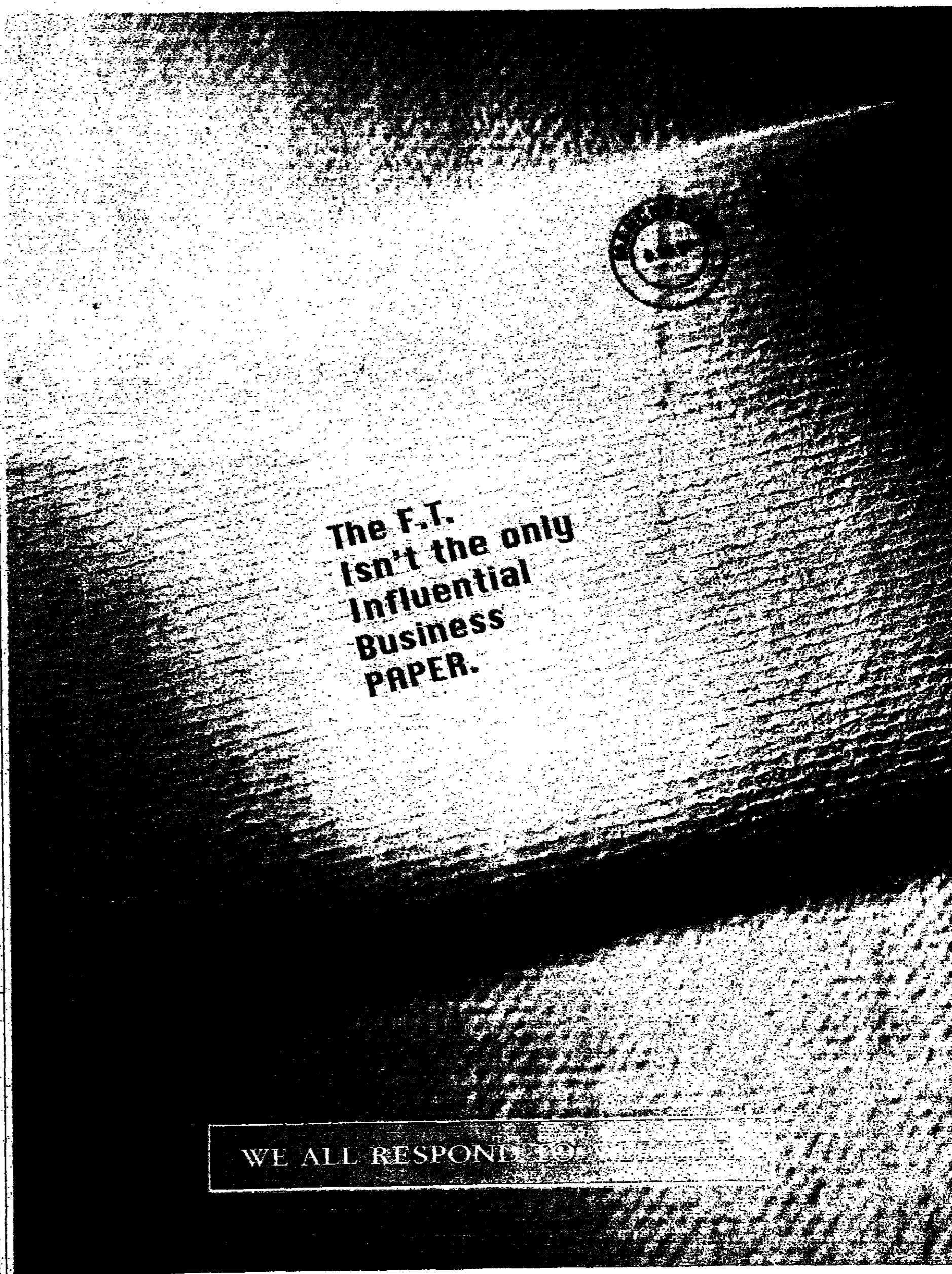
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Power brokers of the hunting lodges turn their gun sights on Kohl

For the first half of my life I swotted for and, broadly speaking, passed examinations, the most pointless of which was the Combined Cadet Force Proficiency Certificate.

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

The information in the 550-page textbook is useful: there are a great deal of gun lore, including advice on pistols such as the Walther PPK,

which I thought was used only by James Bond's enemies. There is common sense which in the German pedagogic tradition is not left to chance ("always point your gun away from yourself"). But by page 214 the text becomes arcane: seven types of wildlife excreta are illustrated and analysed. Tapeworms, rabbit tuberculosis, how to slit deer open: this is not an examination for those with full, sensitive stomachs.

Animals do not die, they "fall". Eyes are "lights", a boar's ears are "plates", the hide of an animal is a "blanket". The songs, blasted out by brass instruments, are martial. It becomes clear the exam is not really about shooting foxes. It is an initiation into a secret society. Every community, even my Bonn suburb where the only excitement is the erratic behaviour of the dustmen — has its hunters' lodge.

Twice a week, more during the bloodiest seasons, the local hunters meet for a gossip. Who are they? Shopkeepers, a

baker, a pharmacist, two builders, all from families that are rooted for at least three generations in the district. They are the community power brokers. It is in the lodge, the *Schützenhaus*, that candidates for the council are marked, that resistance is hatched. The hunters' examination keeps out strangers.

In Central Europe, they used to say to be paranoid is to be in possession of all the facts. One does not have to be a crazed conspiracy theorist to see that Germany is run by such closed societies. For the most part they operate for the benefit of the community. Roman Catholic aristocrats

have a network, so do officers associated past and present with the Tank Corps or certain air force squadrons. There are looser associations — of influential Germans linked with eastern Prussia — and more formal clubs such as the alumni of student duelling societies. Germans say to me: What about your old boys' networks? Oxbridge? The police? Freemasons?

This seems to be a perfectly reasonable riposte. All modern democracies need such filters. German networks, however, have a more uniform political agenda. You will not meet champions of a multicultural society in the hunting lodge or the officers' mess. National conservatives' beliefs hold sway there.

Closed associations like these usually date back to the time when Germany was a patchwork of more than 300 principalities and duchies: the sense of German-ness, of unity of purpose, was forged behind closed doors.

A consensus society like Germany — where deals are worked out long before they are put to a vote — also lacks confidence and candour. It is a backroom democracy because the nation's political class is nervous that too much openness could derail the country. Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, says that he refuses to consider a referendum on the euro because of the bad experiences of the Weimar and Hitler years. The roots of this closed-open society run much deeper than that.

The men (and a few women) in the hunting lodges are turning against the Chancellor exactly because he refuses to take the euro to the country. For the first time in 16 years, Herr Kohl has lost the support of national conservatives.

Athens clinches double victory at EU session

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN EDINBURGH

GREECE was savouring a double achievement in its long-troubled dealings with the EU yesterday after the drachma was admitted to the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) and France lifted a block on the start of EU entry talks for Cyprus.

The deal on Cyprus, brokered by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, at an EU session in Edinburgh, averted a Greek block on EU accession talks for five Central European countries later this month. However, it hands a future hostage to Athens in the EU's long-running quandary over how to handle Turkey.

The drachma move came with a painful 14 per cent devaluation, but it marked the EU's embrace of Greece, the Union's economic black sheep, as a likely member of the single currency in time for the launch of euro notes and coins in 2002. Two years' ERM membership is a condition for joining the euro, along with the other entrance tests set at Maastricht in 1992.

ready for the euro," said Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister. Praising Greece, which is the only state to fail to qualify for next year's euro launch, he said the drachma's entry into the ERM demonstrated "the credibility of the economic adjustment process that Greece has pursued with determination". A 12-member euro will mean that the currency covered the whole EU with the exception of Britain, Denmark and Sweden, which have all decided to stay out.

Trying to soften the impact of an unpopular devaluation, Constantine Simitis, the Prime Minister, told his country yesterday the drachma would join the euro in 2001. "ERM entry expressed the European Union's confidence in the prospects for our economy."

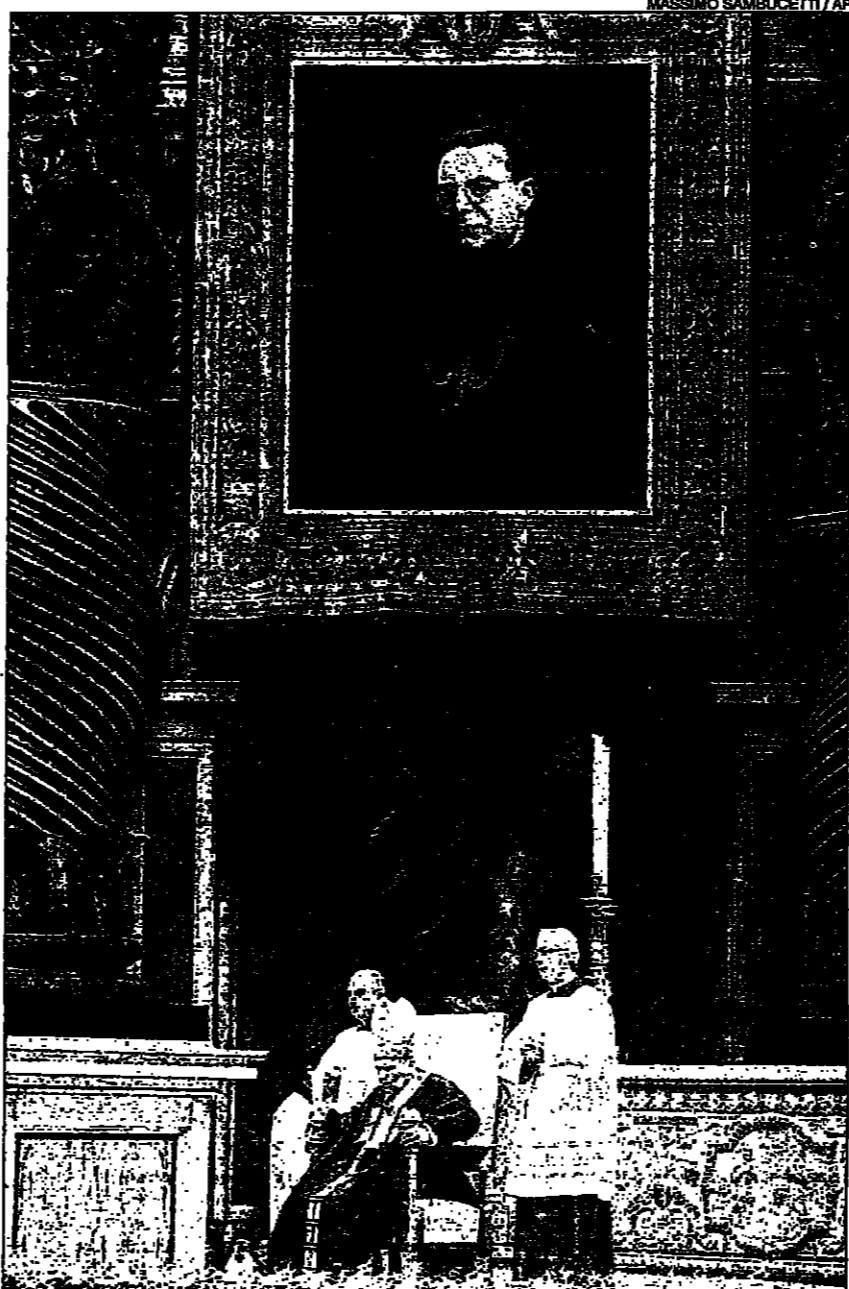
Greek officials were celebrating the French retreat from a threat by President Chirac, made in London last Thursday, to stop EU entry talks for Cyprus until the Turkish Cypriots took part in negotiations. France had argued that the EU would merely be storing up trouble and surrendering a vital lever in its efforts to promote a

settlement to the 24-year division of Cyprus.

The other states, led by Britain, the current EU president, said talks should start while keeping up pressure on the Nicosia Government of Glafkos Clerides to bring the Turkish Cypriot north to the table. However, there was widespread pessimism among foreign ministers over the prospects of any settlement as long as Greece and Turkey remained at loggerheads. Greece, they acknowledged, will have many future opportunities to disrupt EU enlargement over Cyprus.

Behind the quarrel lies the EU's agony over Turkey, which is nursing a bitter grievance over the Union's refusal to accept it as a member along with Cyprus and ten former communist states. Turkish anger has stiffened the refusal of Rauf Denktas, the Turkish-Cypriot leader, to accept an offer from Mr Clerides to take part in the EU talks. He said yesterday: "If they want to resolve the Cyprus problem, then let them treat both sides equally."

Leading article, page 21 Business, page 48



Yevgeni Bosilkov's portrait hangs above the Pope at yesterday's ceremony

Martyr of Stalinism 'selected' as patron saint of football

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A BULGARIAN bishop who yesterday became the first victim of Stalinism to be beatified is being canvassed as the future patron saint of football.

Yevgeni Bosilkov, the former Bishop of Nicolai in Bulgaria, was declared "blessed" — the penultimate step to sainthood — by the Pope at St Peter's. Two nuns were also beatified: an Italian, Brigida Morelli, who lived in the 17th century, and the 19th-century Carmen Salles of Spain.

Bishop Bosilkov was condemned to death in 1952 in Sofia for opposing Stalin's anti-religious laws. He was charged with "subversion and espionage", tortured and executed at the age of 52, facing the firing squad "in the odour of sanctity", according to supporters. His body was thrown into a common grave, and it was only in 1975 that Todor Zhivkov, the Communist leader, admitted the killing to the Pope.

Bishop Bosilkov's beatification became "less problematical" after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Vatican officials say. But papal plans to visit Bulgaria to mark the step were obstructed by the Orthodox Church. The Pope said that the bishop had been "one of the many victims of atheistic communism in its programme of annihilation of the Church".

Bishop Bosilkov is also remembered as a down-to-earth man whose main secular interest was football. According to his niece, Sister Gabriella, 80, a nun who attended the ceremony, he was a

man of "great personal charisma" who chain-smoked, entertained friends with funny stories and founded a hunting club.

His "passion for football" never went beyond the local level, but he played it "all his life", she said. What more fitting candidate, *Corriere della Sera* asked, to become patron saint of football, and possibly of hurting as well, although St Eustace already fills that role.

The response was enthusiastic, not least in the Vatican, which has its own football league, with teams for Vatican Radio, the Secret Archives, the Vatican Post Office and the Vatican Fire Brigade. There is also a Vatican five-a-side team, which is doing so well that its manager, Roberto Di Stefano, is thinking of fielding an 11-man team in the national league.

"Having a patron saint is a marvellous idea," said Signor Di Stefano. "Of course, we already have a bit of help from above here in the Vatican, but a few extra prayers could not do any harm." There are patron saints for athletics (St Sebastian), anglers (St Andrew), gun enthusiasts (St Barbara), hunters (St Eustace), dancers (St Vitus), for fliers (St Joseph of Cupertino), mountaineers (St Bernard of Aosta) and yachtsmen (St Nicholas).

The Pope was a keen football player as a young man in Poland and is said to follow the fortunes of the Vatican teams closely.

Leading article, page 21

Hindu lead we into un



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Hindu militants lead weak team into unknown

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

RIGHT-WING Hindu nationalists will take power in India this week, leading the world's second most populous country into unknown political territory. It will be a weak, multi-party coalition, forcing restraint on extremists pressing for a more religious society based on the concept of *Hindutva* (Hinduness).



Atal Behari Vajpayee, India's new leader

The move followed a weekend of political drama in which Sonia Gandhi seized the presidency of the opposition Congress Party in a coup that has propelled her to the forefront of some of the most momentous political events in independent India.

unknown and improbable leader. Aged 52, she is a naturalised Indian with a smattering of heavily accented Hindi, who gives no interviews or press conferences and rarely expresses an opinion. For more than two decades she has barely hidden her disdain for politics and politicians. The Italian-born Mrs Gandhi's impact is due to her name. Her husband, Rajiv,

the former Prime Minister, was assassinated in 1992. She has surrounded herself with an aura of mystery, and more than one magazine headline-writer has succumbed to calling her *Mona Lisa*. She told President Narayanan last night that the Congress Party would not seek to form a coalition to challenge the BJP's claim to power. Afterwards she drove through a mêlée of reporters and photographers without a word. Then she changed her mind, drove back and caused pandemonium as, for once, she spoke briefly to journalists. "We do not have the numbers to stake a claim to form a government," she said softly, and was gone.



Sonia Gandhi, the opposition Congress Party's new president, is greeted by well-wishers yesterday. She did not challenge the BJP for power

mentary backing for the BJP without being part of the Government, and then promptly attacked the BJP for its "condescending, patronising and contemptuous attitude". Yesterday she won concessions from the party and said her party

would join the Government after all. The Congress Party faces a battle for the election of parliamentary leader, with Sharad Pawar, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra and its capital, Bombay, a front-runner. Mrs Gandhi ruthlessly ousted

Sitaram Kesri, 83, the former party president, from the post on Saturday. He continued to protest last night that he was still the president and called her appointment "unconstitutional and illegal". Mrs Gandhi may run for a parliamentary seat in a by-

election in the coming weeks to reinforce her hold on the party, which has floundered without a Gandhi to lead it. Why she has broken a 26-year refusal to become involved in politics is not clear. She may want to acquire political power to protect her

family from a witch-hunt by opponents; she may be securing control of the party for its eventual takeover by one of her children; or she may see herself as the only hope of saving a dying organisation that she regards as a memorial to her late husband.

Teacher to have second child by boy

New York: Mary Kay LeTourneau, a former teacher convicted last year of raping a 14-year-old boy by whom she had a child, is pregnant again by the boy, her lawyer said (Funkhouser writes). David Gehrke, who is fighting for her release from prison, said LeTourneau's judgment was clouded and she was not responsible for her actions. LeTourneau, 36, was sentenced to five months in jail last year after admitting second-degree rape. She was released early, but was imprisoned once more after police in Seattle found her and the boy in a night-time tryst in her car. The boy's mother, who says she has forgiven LeTourneau, yesterday appealed for her release.

America retreats from human rights motion against China

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

THE decision by the US not to sponsor an anti-China resolution at the annual meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva this week was intended to smooth the path for President Clinton's visit to Beijing in June, diplomats said. It will be the first visit by a US President since the 1989 suppression of the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy demonstrations. The decision, announced by a White House official at the weekend, was linked to China's decision last week to sign a UN covenant guaranteeing certain human rights. "This gesture is to keep the momentum going in China-American relations up to the Clinton visit," a diplomat said. The White House said that,

besides the covenant on civil and political liberties, China had released a number of political prisoners and allowed international observers access to prisons. "We made this decision because of the steps China has taken and the expectation of further progress," a spokesman said. Human rights organisations criticised the US stance, announced days after the decision to bring forward the date of Mr Clinton's visit from November. The European Union under the chairmanship of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, decided last month not to bring a resolution critical of China over human rights to the UN commission. Some

analysts accuse both the EU and the US of changing policies to advance business interests. They say that a recent prison visit by EU officials and diplomats here was a farce, with visitors being shown cells where prisoners had tanks of tropical fish and potted plants. Meanwhile, observers said that village-level elections with secret ballots are starting to take root in rural areas. The observers are members of a Carter Centre delegation here to monitor the polling. They said voters and candidates in nine village elections in north-east China this month had shown increasing sophistication about polls and openness about sensitive issues.



Schoenberg: Nazi target

Vienna hails Schoenberg

Vienna: Sixty years after the Nazis branded the atonal music of the Austrian Jewish composer, Arnold Schoenberg, degenerate and forced him into exile, his city of birth yesterday dedicated an Arnold Schoenberg Centre to the inventor of 12-tone composition. (Reuters)

Brazil pleads for help as fires destroy Amazon farmland

FROM JOELLE DIDERICH IN BOA VISTA, BRAZIL

FIREFIGHTERS tackling huge fires in Brazil's northern Amazon region appealed for more men and equipment yesterday, but the arrival of essential water-bombing helicopters was delayed. Fires started by subsistence farmers in the state of Roraima have burnt out of control for two months, destroying a vast stretch of highland savannah near the border with Venezuela. Officials say that 2.2 million acres of farmland has gone up in smoke and an unusually severe drought has killed about 20,000 cattle. Now the flames are eating into remote rainforest areas which are normally too wet to burn. A column of fire has pushed at least seven miles into the jungle reservation of

the Yanomami Indians. Other tribes that live in the savannah, such as the Macuxi and Wapixana groups, have seen their crops fail in the drought and are running out of food. "The fires have already burnt all the vegetation in the savannah areas. Our concern now is with the forests. The ecological damage is irreversible," Kleber Gomes Cerquinho, a senior fire officer, said. He said that 110 firefighters were trying to control the blazes, but only 40 could work at any one time. The fires were spreading out of sight under a carpet of dry leaves and branches on the forest floor. Reinforcements, including a 70-member firefighting team from Rio de Janeiro, were expected soon. However, Se-

nor Cerquinho said, the only way to tackle the fires was by dropping water from the air with men on the ground to beat out the remaining flames. Despite its vast forest resources, Brazil has no specialised water-carrying planes or helicopters. Roraima state officials said on Friday that they would hire 22 helicopters from a private company in Venezuela. Yesterday, however, an official said that only six helicopters were available. Environmental officials blame the fire on a six-month drought which has dried out the forest and on the slash-and-burn methods of poor farmers who every year set fire to their plots to fertilise the thin soil with ash. (Reuters)

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Tourists are left to swim for it

Jakarta: A group of foreign tourists was abandoned at sea after they tried to force their Indonesian crew to sail to Australia's Christmas Island after hiring them for a pleasure cruise off Jakarta, the police said yesterday.

The tourists — eleven French, three Italian, two Afghans, one Belgian and one Algerian, all men, and a Swiss woman — jumped into the sea when they realised that the crew of six had left and were found on a beach in southern Java island, the police said.

Police Corporal Djumantoro said that 16 of the tourists were being questioned, the others were being treated for dehydration after their swim.

The crew became frightened when ordered to sail to Christmas Island, news reports said. One jumped into the sea and the others tied themselves together with a rope before following suit. (AFP)

Clinton fondled me, woman says on TV

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON last night faced the dual blows of an alleged link to another White House trainee, and the televised testimony of a woman who claims he fondled her in the Oval Office.

Just two days after the disclosure of testimony from hosts of women in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit, including that of Monica Lewinsky, the White House trainee alleged to have had an affair with the President, lawyers for Sherrill Densuk, 24, another executive assistant, said she would provide a "major development" before a grand jury this week.

At the same time, Kathleen Willey, 51, the White House volunteer who says Mr Clinton groped her, gave a graphic description of the alleged incident in a compelling interview with *60 Minutes*, the CBS documentary show.

The latest deluge of allegations prompted Dan Quayle, the former Republican Vice-President, to say: "If Ken Starr

[the independent prosecutor] submits a statement that says he has reason to believe that perjury, obstruction of justice and suborning of perjury was committed, the Republicans will go forward with impeachment proceedings."

Mrs Willey is the only woman known to have testified that the President touched her sexually at the White



Willey: "surprised by President's advances"

House. According to her testimony in the Jones case, Mrs Willey went to the Oval Office in November 1993 to ask Mr Clinton for a job.

After their conversation, the President embraced her. "The hug just continued longer than I expected," Mrs Willey. She added that she was "surprised" by his unexpected advances and attempts to kiss her on the lips.

Asked if he touched her breasts, she said: "Yes". She added that the President "put my hands on his genitals" and told her he "had wanted to do that for a long time". As she left, Mr Clinton promised to help find her a job. "We'll do all we can for you," she claims he said.

The President, in his testimony, said he may have kissed Mrs Willey on the forehead but denied any sexual contact.

In a further twist, *Newsweek* today reports that Nathan Landow, a big Democratic fundraiser, repeatedly pressed

Mrs Willey last October about her encounter with the President. In her evidence to the Starr inquiry, Mrs Willey said Mr Landow told her to say nothing and argued that she would not be contradicted if she said "nothing happened". Mr Landow, who denies her claim, is reported to have offered to fly Mrs Willey to New York City for a Christmas shopping spree.

Separately yesterday, Keith Watters, a lawyer for Ms Densuk, said she had worked as a White House trainee at the same time as Miss Lewinsky but never met her. He predicted, however, that her evidence before the grand jury would be explosive. "Monica Lewinsky is a big story. This is a big story," he said. "It is going to be a major development for Mr Starr."

It was unclear whether Ms Densuk, now a songwriter and part-time actress who lives in Manhattan, was claiming any relationship with the President.



A dog waits for its master while he casts his vote in Sarcelles, north of Paris

Far Right benefits amid Left's surge in French polls

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S governing Socialist-led coalition won regional elections yesterday with about 36 per cent of the vote, according to first estimates by polling institutes.

The mainstream right-wing parties, the neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) and the Union for French Democracy (UDF), garnered about 30 per cent, while the ultra-right National Front won around 15 per cent, the estimates showed.

The turnout of voters tumbled to a record low. Polling institutes estimated the final turnout plunging about 10 points against the 1992 regional vote turnout of 68.9 per cent. The Ipsos institute put final the turnout at 57.5 per cent, while the CSA institute forecast 59.2 per cent.

The parties of the Centre-Right, which controlled all but two of the 22 regional councils after the last elections in 1992, faced the prospect of losing most of their coveted regional power bases, including the stronghold in the Paris region being defended by the former Prime Minister, Edouard Balladur.

Seats on regional councils are allocated on a proportional representation system, and the crucial horse-trading will take place this week before

Friday's election of the council presidents. The future of many centre-right candidates may depend on their willingness to strike deals with National Front councillors. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the party's leader, has said that a blanket refusal by the mainstream Right to forge an alliance with members of his party would be "political suicide".

Philippe Séguin, who took over the leadership of the Gaullist party after the Centre-Right was trounced in legislative elections last year, said that winning control of councils with the help of the National Front would lead to "a political, economic and moral revolution".

Several conservative candidates have already broken ranks, however, to make overtures to the far Right.

Even before the polls closed, the Left was predicting a ringing endorsement for the Socialist-led Government of Lionel Jospin, and the Right was playing down the expected result.

While no government minister would admit it, the tactics of the National Front have played to the Left's advantage, splitting the opposing vote and providing a potent symbol of the disunity and uncertainty in the opposition ranks.

British protest over Gibraltar fish clash

FROM DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR

BRITAIN is to protest to Madrid after increasing tension over illegal fishing reached a peak in the Bay of Gibraltar, when a Spanish helicopter threatened a Royal Gibraltar Police vessel. The lives of the crew were endangered and a brass handrail of the vessel crushed.

The incident, on Friday night, came as Spanish fishermen, angry over conservationist laws on the Rock prohibiting the use of certain nets, set out to challenge Britain's jurisdiction. Rekindling a challenge over the waters, last seen during the

peak of Anglo-Spanish tension in 1967, Spanish officers of the anti-smuggling patrol responded to a call from the fishermen 1½ miles from the Rock, one mile within territorial waters.

Gibraltar police are seeking a fishing protection vessel because their craft are no match for the fishing fleet operating from Spain's second busiest port of Algeciras. Peter Carreras, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, said the incident was orchestrated to challenge British jurisdiction and said he expected a firm response from Britain.

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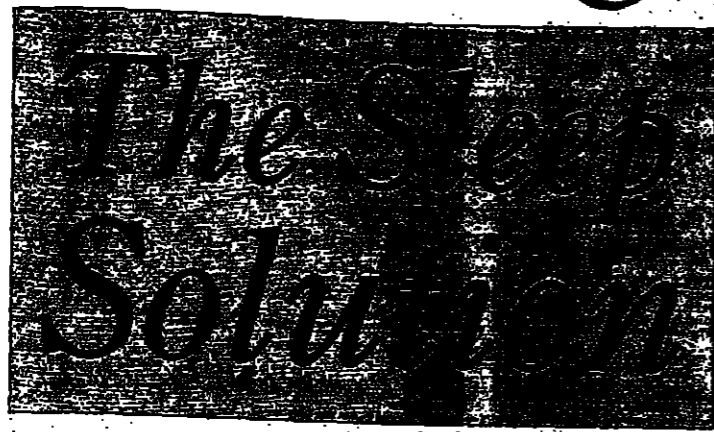
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The right moment to go to bed



Continuing our extracts from *The Sleep Solution*, Nigel Ball and Nick Hough look at the ways of establishing a bedtime routine and the best methods of winding down

To get to sleep, you must be ready and able to "let go" of wakefulness. It is not much use going to bed if you don't need to go to sleep. The time at which we are ready to sleep depends on how long it has been since we last slept, how alert we are and our natural biological rhythms.

There are two key strategies to making a bedtime schedule work:

■ **Regularity** — even if your schedule is not regular (you may think that this is impossible because of children or work, but we'll show you how to achieve it).

■ **Put sleep into the right part of your daily biological cycle.** If you have a schedule with regular hours (that is, you carry out more or less no work between 7pm and 7am and you don't commute before 6am or after 7pm) it is easy to achieve a pattern and you should set your bedtime from the time you need to get up in the morning.

■ **First, decide on a comfortable time to get out of bed that will work for as many days of the week as possible.** This is probably a time that allows you to get to work on time. Think about it carefully. Your first guess may be earlier than necessary because you may not be preparing properly the night before.

■ **Next, count back the number of hours that you calculated on Night One as your preferred time in bed.** This will give you the time you need to be ready to turn out the light and start falling asleep. If you want time in bed for other reasons such as relaxing, reading or sex, you will need to get into bed earlier.

■ **It is best to set this time for seven days a week, not just for workdays.** On most days you should try to get to bed within 15 minutes of your preferred time.

■ **If you have an early schedule, so that you have to work before 7am, or leave home for work before 6am, you'll be fighting against your biological rhythm and it will be vital to keep a regular schedule.**

■ **If you have a late schedule that requires you to work until the middle of the night then:**

■ **Go to bed as soon as you can after getting home and aim to fall asleep in 20 minutes or less.**

■ **If you have difficulty with this,**

you might need to allow a suitable winding-down time (perhaps 30 to 60 minutes).

■ **Don't leave too much to do before bed; arrange your schedule so that you can avoid eating a major meal or doing paperwork, for example.**

For many people this is an easy and "natural" schedule if:

■ **The conflict with their partner's schedule is not troublesome.**

■ **They can avoid trying to fit too much into each day.**

■ **They can wind down properly after work before trying to sleep.** This is the most flexible scheme and it doesn't much matter what time you go to sleep on your days off.

If you work nights, one key concept is to keep both your main meal and some sleep time (about three hours) within the same two to three-hour period every day, even at weekends, and your days off. This regularity tends to "anchor" your natural daily biological rhythms.

For example, perhaps you can eat your main meal at 4 or 5pm on workdays, and 6 or 7pm on your days off. Or always keep it around noon. You could divide your sleep-in-half, with the first period starting at 7am on workdays and late 8am (for example) on your days off, but sticking to a second sleep period at 3pm or 4am every day of the week.

It is easiest to get to sleep with a falling body temperature, and hardest to stay asleep when the body temperature is naturally rising in the mid-to-late morning. This means that it is very difficult for someone with a normal circadian rhythm to go to bed between 6 and 9am and sleep for eight hours without interruption. For that reason many night-workers sleep for several hours in the morning when they come home from work, and then try to sleep for a few more hours later in the day.

Settle on a preferred sleep zone in which you try to obtain at least three hours of sleep each day; for example from midnight to 4am.

Have a secondary sleep zone in which you take a nap if you obtain a good sleep in your preferred sleep zone or get at least three hours of sleep (if you were disturbed in your preferred sleep zone). For example, if your preferred sleep zone is midnight to 4am,



Perchance to dream: the key to a perfect night's sleep every evening is to tune in to your natural biological rhythms and to work out your own bedtime schedule

ferred sleep zone is midnight to 4am, your secondary sleep zone could be 2 to 6pm.

Don't be afraid to take short naps (of about 20 to 30 minutes) to anticipate future sleepiness. For example, if you are due to start work at 9am, you may want to take a nap at about 6pm.

However, if naps interfere with your ability to get to sleep in your preferred sleep zone, you should probably reschedule them.

If you have a variable or disrupted schedule try to set some kind of constant pattern. For example, every day there may be three or four hours when you're more likely to be able to sleep. Give a high priority to going to bed at this preferred time even if you are able to manage only a short while. If this sleep period can be during the night, so much the better.

Try to top up your sleep with naps at other times, so that (a) you never become really sleepy; and (b) you become used to obtaining good quality sleep in a short time. The usual advice about avoiding naps doesn't apply to you. For example,

if you expect to work in the late evening, but you are not sure exactly when you could sleep for three or four hours after lunch, you might go to bed for another 40 minutes or so in the early evening and again later if your work is delayed. Don't always expect to fall asleep when you start this routine, but by giving yourself the time in bed you will eventually learn to sleep if you need to.

Whatever routine you keep, convince your partner of the seriousness of your plan. Some joint activities, including sexual intimacy, may need to be rescheduled, and you will need to respect each other's schedules.

You will benefit from spending some time preparing for your day before you go to bed (regular and early schedules) or in the afternoon (late and night schedules).

The hours before bedtime and what you do in them play an important part in getting to sleep easily, and in the quality of your night's sleep. Generally, sleep is

easier if you are completely relaxed, your body temperature is dropping and you have a regular routine so that the physiological preparations for sleep are fully harmonised.

Your bedtime routine is the sequence of things that you do as you get ready to go to bed. Before you fall asleep, you need relaxed muscles, a lower brain temperature and mental peacefulness.

In the two hours before bedtime, avoid activities that will stir you up: exercise, eating (other than light snacks), work, worry, arguments and discussions.

Before you start your bedtime routine, think ahead. If you prepare your clothes, food, or the things that you need during the next workday, you may be able to sleep a little longer, and go to sleep less anxious about the day ahead.

Carry out disrupting activities or chores earlier in the evening: make a point of getting them out of the way at least an hour before bedtime. This should include telephone calls, especially duty or business calls. Time your bedtime routine so that you avoid eating a

meal or drinking alcohol in the three hours before bedtime. Digestion increases your metabolic rate and the blood flows to the gastrointestinal tract for at least an hour or so, which counters the natural slowing-down that is necessary for falling asleep. This is much less of a problem if you eat only small quantities of easily digestible food, such as plain biscuits or a banana.

Avoid telephone calls within an hour or so of bedtime. For now, tell callers that you're participating in this programme and would prefer calls at other times of the day. Telling late callers that you were getting ready to go to bed may be sufficient to change their calling habits. Alternatively, simply switch on an answering machine at these times.

Avoid discussing work or family problems (particularly finances) in the hour or so before you fall asleep, and especially when you are in bed. This may require reaching an agreement with your partner. You may want to arrange a specific time to follow up on these issues, so that you are not just avoiding things that need to be discussed.

Falling asleep with the light or radio on conditions you to a specific stimuli. This is not helpful and may cause you problems.

Some people find that a warm bath or shower improves the bedtime routine. This works because it is mentally and physically relaxing, and the rapid drop in body temperature afterwards is conducive to sleep. Make sure that the water is not too hot, since that can raise your body temperature too much and prevent sleep until it cools.

Remember to use the bedroom only for sleep, intimacy, or quiet pleasures such as reading.

Times readers can buy *The Sleep Solution* by Nigel Ball and Nick Hough for just £8.99 (published by Vermilion) by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 124 450

TOMORROW

Sleep problems — and how to overcome them

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Do you lie in bed trying to get to sleep? Which of the following apply to you: racing brain, worry, frustration, anger, inability to switch off?

Try hiding your clock, or at least turning the face. Clock-watching can increase frustration. Getting out of bed until you begin to feel sleepy is a good way to break the cycle. As a general rule, you should get out of bed whenever you become frustrated about sleeping or if you have been awake for 30 minutes or more at the start of the night, or for about ten minutes during the night and sleep is not imminent.

When you get up, keep yourself warm and comfortable. Do something that is relaxing but involves no risk of your falling asleep before you can get back into bed. Be wary of watching television, it may distract you from becoming more relaxed. It may also turn into a habit, encouraging you to wake up more fully if you stir during the night. Reading, or drinking a warm, caffeine-free beverage, are better options. When you feel sleepy get back into bed, but do not expect sleep to come at once. You may have been conditioning yourself against sleep for some time and it will take more than one night to recondition. Relaxation tapes or exercises may help. Learn to associate being in bed with being sleepy, not with the frustration of not being able to get to sleep.

Sleeping pills do not cure insomnia, but only mask the difficulty in getting to sleep and may hide the real reason for your problems. One researcher says they cause insomnia.

Alcohol causes sleepiness but do not use it to help you to get to sleep — it damages the quality of sleep and may cause you to wake up after an hour, sweating, restless and with a racing heart.

To function well, you need

KEEP THAT TV SWITCHED OFF

TIMOTHY SHONARD/TONY STONE IMAGES

Be wary of television; it may distract you from relaxing

between 45 and 55 minutes of sleep for every hour you are in bed. There are at least two ways of accomplishing this. One is to start with "more than enough" sleep for three or four days. This will quickly show you what it feels like to have sufficient sleep. You can then begin to reduce your sleep time until you meet the goal stated above. A second approach involves gradually increasing your sleep time.

MANY PEOPLE with insomnia have had their sleep "diluted" to such a degree that extra time in bed does not help. Sleep-restriction therapy "reconcentrates" sleep, breaking the link between lying in bed and sleeplessness. Set aside three or four days when you have nothing important going on in the daytime. At night, get out of bed if you are awake and have been trying to get to sleep for 15 minutes or so and oblivion is not imminent. Stay up until you feel ready to go to sleep, then go back to bed. Repeat the process if necessary. Sooner or later you will drop off.

"Sunday night insomnia" — particular trouble sleeping on the night before the first working day of the week — is part anxiety, part insomnia

complaint. More than two thirds of people who have trouble getting to sleep, or getting back to sleep, complain of an overactive brain, or of worry, stress or depression.

Force the issue: fight these fights before you go to bed. If you feel suicidal, if you have lost interest in things, if you have panic attacks, a racing heart or difficulty breathing, see your doctor. But sometimes sleep problems are the primary symptom of depression, or the only one not resolved by an otherwise successful medication — in which case help is needed for the underlying sleep problem. Get out of bed if sleep is not imminent, especially if you are prone to worrying or becoming frustrated. It is easier to keep a sense of proportion if you are out of bed and there is a light on. Set aside 15 to 20 minutes in the late afternoon/early evening when you can think about these issues. Tackle them when you are awake, alert and focused.

Be honest about the things that concern you, and even try to imagine worst-case scenarios. For each problem try to identify one thing you can do to improve the situation and one that represents a step towards a final solution. If, say, your worries are primarily work-related, you might decide to talk to a colleague the next day, or address a specific complaint to your boss. Remember the actions you have identified by writing them down so you can refer to them during the night.

"The art of erotica"

The Times, 2nd March 1999

In a recent edition of *The Times*, Damian Whitworth examined a rather different kind of journal, which has recently gone on sale in certain selected newsagents and bookshops: *The Erotic Print Society Review*. It has proved so popular that, within a few days, Waterstone's had reordered and the Society had to reprint.

The *Times* correspondent speaks about the spicy writing — by contributors such as Auberon Waugh, Josceline Dimbleby and Barry Humphries — and explicit illustrations, some of which are 'searingly erotic'.

What he doesn't mention is the *Erotic Print Society's* Catalogue, which has now sold over 35,000 copies. This 80-page little tome, eye-poppingly illustrated in colour, will give you more than just a glimpse of the most private parts of the Society's private collection. Only its price is modest — just five pounds. And with it, a free trial copy of our latest *Erotic Review*.

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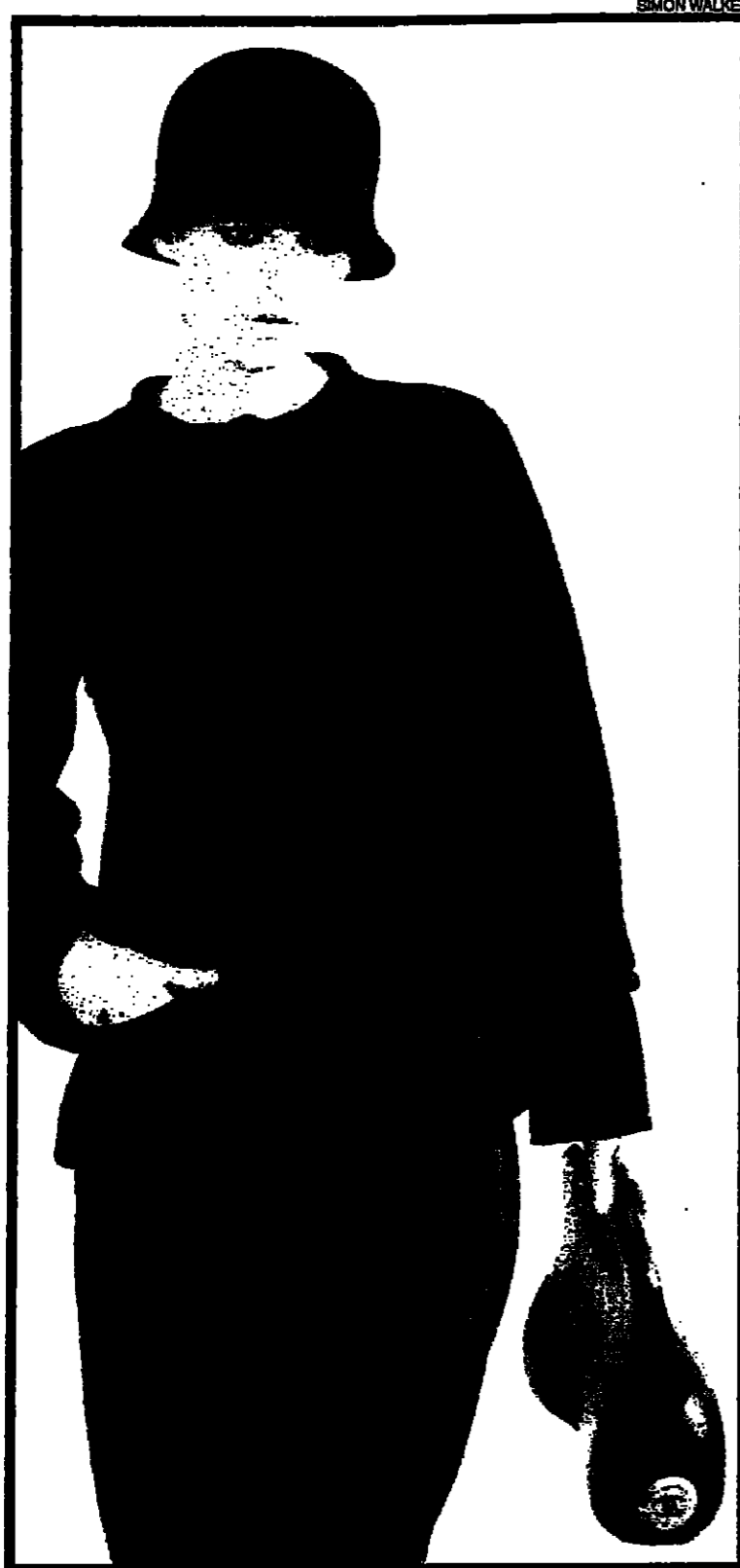
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Across the steppes of time



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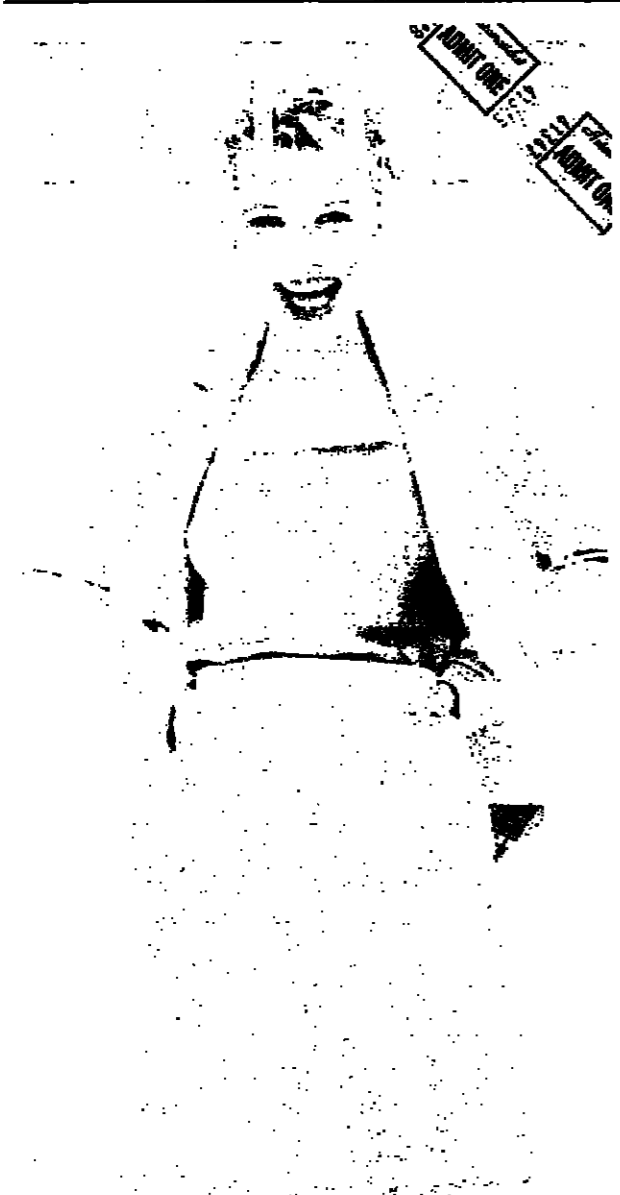
Commes des Garçons



Ann Demeulemeester



John Galiano: Thirties Berlin



It is a chastening thought that as the fashion cognoscenti obsessively ponder whether petrol blue really will be the new black, there are people in the world who do not know what is going on at the Paris shows, and care even less.

Spare a thought for the peasants of Armenia, the Ukrainian steppes, and a mishmash of other former Soviet states, who have no idea that come next winter hundreds of wealthy women will be striving to emulate their long, flared skirts and scratchy woolen coats.

The Armenian/Ukrainian peasant look is big for next winter, as is the Romany thing and folkloric decoration generally. Sometimes it's fused with a transcaucasian military theme.

There's nothing new in the peasant collection, of course. John Galiano does one periodically (though this season he went to Thirties Berlin). Dries Van Noten, the Dutch designer known for his ethnic layering, touches on it with every collection.

What is interesting is the way the designers are moving on from either stark minimalism or elaborate decoration, to touches of both, fusing strong shapes with an attention to detail and either spare embroidery or graphic decoration such as raw, visible seamings and piping.

At the pared-down end of the spectrum there was Marc Jacobs making a subdued debut for Louis Vuitton and the avant-garde Belgian designer Martin Margiela designing his first collection for



Ukrainian peasant is the big look for next winter. Style Editor Grace Bradberry reports from the Paris collections

Hermès. In his own-label collection, Margiela is what is known in fashion as intellectual. He made his name slashing up old clothes and recycling flea-market garments.

There was no recycling going on at Hermès, however, where brown deerskin pea-jackets with deep V-necks and long, floating coats in a diaphanous waterproof fabric dominated. These were ageless clothes, highlighted by the use of older models, including Gunilla Lindblad and Suzanne Moncur, the supermodels of their day. The key influence was Celtic, but the flat brown riding boots and wide-legged men's trousers caught the Eastern Front feel of other collections. The mannish trouser shape is a key look for winter, more structured than last season's slouch, but still on the baggy side.

Sonia Rykiel, celebrating her 30th anniversary, produced low-slung, wide-leg trousers with military patch pockets and a hint of the combat pant. At Van Noten, women again wore men's trousers, but these had high waists that stayed at hip width, and were tucked into flat Cossack boots. Hungar-

ian folkloric embroidery decorated the sleeves of wrap coats with low, flat belts, rather like the ones at Rykiel. Van Noten used red fur or embroidery to lift his neutral colours, including khaki and petrol blue, which were the base colours in many collections. Commes des Garçons fused military and peasant. Tess of the D'Urbervilles meets Chairman Mao was the quip of one fashion editor. Rei Kawakubo's collection was dominated by backless dresses and deconstructed 18th-century frock coats worn with grey leggings and court shoes with bows of the kind last seen in the early 1980s — heaven forbid they should make a return — but there were also beautiful grosgrains in panels of grey and cream.

Geometric patterns were another theme going on all over the place. There were the 1930s expressionist-inspired designs at Galiano, and the designer's Aztec patchwork parkas for Dior. Junya Watanabe produced flower-print pleats that were a ray of sunshine in a collection dominated by metal hoops, shower caps and schoolgirl white shirts, currently making a big fashion arrival. Alexander McQueen did hard-edged, rectangle-within-rectangle leatherwork in his best Givenchy ready-to-wear show to date. If anyone can make petrol blue the new black, it is he.

Meanwhile, Stella McCartney's Kimi-ish computer designs for Chloé feminised the graphic print. Girly and louche, McCartney's second Chloé collection was far more worked-out than the first, with every print

created specially for the label. Appliqué panties were scattered across body-hugging silk dresses, while the prints included flowers set on chequerboards.

The most front-row numbers were those in layers of embroidered tulle scallops. "I went to the fairy exhibition at the Royal Academy," explained McCartney after the show. Some rock chick stuff was sluttish, but McCartney is quite right in thinking that the women who buy it have their sluttish days. The jackboots with delicate dresses were oddly Nanette Newman.

At the other end of the spectrum was Ann Demeulemeester, the Belgian deconstructionist, who produced last season's definitive slouch suit. Her slashed red dresses worn with black were spot-on colourwise, but the draping and ripped edges don't look as new as they might.

As a lesson in relaxed but luxurious chic, the Chanel show was hard to beat. Once again there were wrap coats, some with low military patch pockets, but everything was soft and draped. Pleated tweed coats and jackets were soft but sculptural, with a luxe bohemian feel. Soft violet spencers looked gorgeous, as did the sleek black and white spun mohair suits, with long narrow skirts. Strips of grey mohair were woven in to create soft trimmings on pockets and hems, while black tulle evening gowns were sparsely decorated with mohair and beads.

As for the bag, it will doubtless prove the most influential item of this Paris season and possibly the next.

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Women all love Liam but I'm not the jealous type

Natasha Richardson on life, loss, love and being Mrs Neeson. Interview by Noreen Taylor



Natasha Richardson: "I'm completely driven, not for box-office stardom but for work I believe in. You can say it's in the blood, it's inevitable coming from my background"

The tall woman with that so-familiar Redgrave face walks into the restaurant in midtown New York, peers around hopefully, yanks spectacles from her handbag and then sticks them on the end of her nose. "Oh hi," laughs Natasha Richardson self-consciously. "I can't bear wearing them and I'm blind without them."

As we are shown to the lone smoking table, she says sotto voce, "Smokers, these rigid rules. You almost expect them to enter a warning sign above us 'Health hazard'—smokers in residence."

No smoke would conceal Natasha's most striking feature, diagnosed early in her ears and another diamond dangling from her gold chain around her neck. They are, I tell her without exaggeration, extraordinary. "My Christmas present," she admits shyly. It transpires that they were given by her film-star husband, Liam Neeson.

Straightaway I am confronted by the gross unfairness of what might be called Natasha's image dilemma. For most of her life, she has been portrayed as Vanessa's daughter. Now she is Liam's wife. Truly, the resemblance to her mother is spooky. Though smaller and slimmer, the same finely drawn features stare back. For a moment, as I

listen to her speak, all caressing cadences ending in trembly drifts, it could be an impersonation. Then I realise that I am making the mistake of seeking the similarities rather than noting the differences. The previous evening I had seen Natasha on stage playing Sally Bowles in a preview of *Cabaret*, which opens on Broadway on Thursday. Her compelling perfor-



Natasha and Liam

mance confirms that she is a gifted actress who has the ability to make us believe she is someone else.

In this restaurant, wearing one of those fashionable tight little cardigans in lilac, a black velvet skirt, black tights and kitten-heeled shoes, she is a beguiling blend of class and street. She bubbles as she describes her baby sons—Michael, nine-and-a-half, and Daniel, 18 months—the return of stomach muscles,

exhaustion and her farmhouse in upstate New York.

On stage, in a tatty basque and torn stockings, she appears to inhabit another body and speak with a different voice to portray Sally, the sad, junkie-eyed, broken woman singing in the Kit Kat Club in Thirties Berlin while clinging to her dishevelled dreams.

So vivid is the production, by Sam Mendes, that you can almost smell the stench of body odour as chorus girls in their droopy pink knickers shuffle around drunkenly, unaware of the thrashing jackboot moving ever closer. I tell her I really meant it when I said she was good. "Oh, I'm so relieved. I've wanted this part since I was a little girl. We had the record of the film *Cabaret*, and I used to put on these little shows where I'd mime to Liza Minnelli singing."

So had she always wanted to be an actress? "Yes, yes," she nods vigorously, "as long as I can remember. It's my vocation. I'm completely driven, not for box-office stardom but for work that I believe in. You can say it's in the blood, that it's inevitable coming from my background, and sometimes I wonder, but I don't have any answers. All I know is that I'm very hard on myself. Though my name opened doors, it didn't get me work, and a lot of pressure comes from having a mother who is considered one

of the greatest actresses of her generation."

The drama dynasty of the Redgraves is to acting what the Rothschilds are to banking and the Windsors to ruling. Natasha, now 34, is the elder daughter of Vanessa and the film director Tony Richardson, who died of Aids.

Her grandparents—the theatrical knight Michael Redgrave and his wife, the actress Rachel Kempson—were fine actors. Her sister, Joely Richardson, uncle Colin, aunt Lynn and cousin Jenna all act. Then, four years ago, she married Neeson, a star who now outshines all the Redgraves. "Perhaps that's part of the reason why I love living in New York, being free of all that family baggage, being open to all sorts of possibilities."

"You can make your own life here, although there are sacrifices, like missing London, family, friends, my supply of Telly teabags. You do have to get used to these silly rules about smoking and the fact that New Yorkers are people who live to work, instead of working to live."

Her life could not be more different from that of Sally Bowles, yet she says: "I can identify with a lost girl like her who took risks." Really? Can she understand the anguish of the self-destructive Sally? "I can identify with pain for many reasons. I wasn't brought up in some rich, limousined childhood."

Well, Vanessa did give away most of her money to causes she deemed more worthy than a luxurious domestic lifestyle. But Natasha isn't thinking of cash. "Believe me, there have been enough experiences in my life to draw on. Many of them I can't share with you because my family aren't exactly anonymous people. Because of my mother's political involvement when I was young, the whole world seemed to be against her and, at times, it seemed as though

mass of emotions. Then again, membership of the Redgrave family comes with an in-house instruction pamphlet on how to sidestep sensitive questions, such as the subject of Liam.

A here-we-go-again look floats across her face when I mention his name, but once she is on the subject there is no hiding the depth of feeling that breaks through her understandable caution.

"Liam and I come from such diverse backgrounds, yet we're soulmates, deeply connected to one another with love and understanding. We suffer each other's bedrock. We suffer the same stresses while enduring the separations."

"He is in London rehearsing his Oscar Wilde, so we haven't seen each other for nine weeks. It's terrible. It wasn't meant to be like this. Liam had arranged his whole schedule to be here to support me through

Cabaret, then dates changed and everything got mixed up. It's inevitable, I suppose, being in the same profession."

Through Liam she has discovered Ireland and the Irish. "I love going there with him, sitting at home with him talking to his three sisters. Liam is still very much an Irishman, very proud of his country. We go over twice a year and we're thinking of buying a house in either Galway or Wicklow."

Giving birth to Michael in Dublin, I can't tell you how wonderful that was compared with the experience of having a child here in America. We didn't plan on having them so close together. It was an accident, though now I look at these two little people playing together and I feel so lucky."

Hers does seem like a golden life, so why is she shaking her head in disagreement? "There are times when I think I could agree with you, but most of the time that's not how I experience life. I wish I didn't take things so seriously, that I could lighten up occasionally."

"My father's death was the unhappiest time in my life. He really believed in me and I loved him so much. He was only 63. I don't think I'll ever get over his dying and, in a way, I don't want to because then he would grow dimmer. So there's no escape. And although you've said kind things about my work, what I'm concerned about much of the time is how I look. I know I come across as confident because I'm good at covering up my insecurity, which is terrible. I have very low self-esteem, which comes from being an overweight teenager, and I'm

stuck with that self-image. One of the lousy things about this profession is that it constantly forces you to examine yourself, to look in the mirror, to be concerned about age."

So what does marrying a man often described as Hollywood's most desirable star, who previously dated some of the world's most talked-about women—Madonna, Barbra Streisand, Brooke Shields, Helen Mirren, Julia Roberts—do for such insecurities? "When their relationship became public, one of Hollywood's female reporters suggested that 'lucky' Natasha had carried off Neeson, never considering that she might have been the one carried off."

"I suppose she meant that women everywhere love Liam. Well, I don't suffer from jealousy, so all I can say is that they have great taste."

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'Liam and I are soulmates, each other's bedrock'

she wasn't primarily concerned with her family, but her causes. Then there was my father dying of Aids, and the collapse of my first marriage. Those experiences are the ones I use in my work."

Her 15-month marriage to the producer Robert Fox ended after she met Neeson when they starred together in Eugene O'Neill's *Anno Christie* on Broadway. At the end of the run, she followed him to Poland while he filmed *Schindler's List*. Clearly it was that kind of swept-off-your-feet love, impossible to fight, which devastated Fox so badly that he later spoke at length in public of his heartache.

"I know," she says. "And I so wish he hadn't talked about us. I deeply regret that he did so. All I can say now is that I still love him and that we're friends again."

These words, although delivered with a polite formality, doubtless cloak a seething

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Time to get fit for being Homo superior

Two things seem essential to national success in the next century. The first is the development of high skills for rapid readjustment to the scientific and technological tidal wave which we are told is imminent. The second is to make a population feel it is valued, able to cope and able to switch course.

According to rather reliable predictions there will be an earthquake — or rather brainquake — of changes soon. In about 2020 Homo sapiens will fall away and a new model begin to emerge. Michio Kaku in his new book *Visions: How Science will Revolutionise the 21st Century and Beyond* points out that human knowledge is doubling every ten years and computer power is doubling every 18 months. From this and other factors he concludes that "the Age of Discovery in Science is coming to a close, opening up an Age of Mastery".

Kaku, who is a professor of theoretical physics, interviewed more than 150 leading scientists

for his book. He emphasises that although there is no certainty in prophecy, the track record of the scientists has been markedly better than that of anyone else. As a result, one chapter of his book ought to be essential reading in Gordon Brown's office. Brown's intellectual avant-garde ought to be riveted by Kaku's entirely plausible suggestion in his chapter on the Wealth of Nations. Natural resources, Kaku declares, will matter much less than in the 19th and 20th centuries. What will count will be brain power, imagination and the organisation of the new technologies. More than ever before, braininess will be the Wealth of Nations and those without it will slither swiftly down the snake. Only the arduous rungs of education will take them up the ladders again.

Kaku's well-researched predic-

tions dovetail, in my opinion, with a recent report from Comedia, a small independent research centre. Francois Matarasso has written a revealing report called *Use or Ornament? The social impact of participation in the arts*. Like many readers, I suspect, I do not take very readily to reports which employ a vast amount of money — usually our money — to tell us what we can conclude by passing through the day with our eyes open. You know the sort of thing — a five-year research project at the University of Wittering concludes that 18 to 22-year-olds who drink 12 pints of lager a night get drunk and feel pretty lousy in the morning.

But Comedia's report is independent and, although it does reinforce what has long been agreed by those who work in the arts, to have it reinforced with



Independent research is the best sort of ammunition for an arts debate which will run and run. It will run because it is complementary to the state of things predicted by Kaku. Unless a population can

be extended and stretched and helped to feel flexible and positive then we will lose out on what looks like being a colossal battle for economic and cultural comfort — and even survival — over the next 100 years. In my view, the arts will be integral to any large-scale achievements, especially as a participating activity.

Matarasso's report, the product of research from all over the UK, makes, largely for optimistic reading, with the predictable rider that more attention should be paid to social participation in the arts. Some of these findings may seem a small concern to those who have — have the time, the money and the education; who have a full fridge, a foreign holiday, a couple of cars, money in the bank. It is to those who have not, or not much, that

the arts, have to be taken. What Comedia's report reveals is a glorious vindication of its skilfully chosen epigraph from Louis MacNeice's *Autumn Journal* of 1939. He wrote:

There is no reason for thinking that, if you give a chance for people to think or live the arts of thought or life will suffer or become rougher and not return more than you could ever give.

From Batley and Bolton and Hounslow and Sandwell, from Portsmouth, northern Scotland and London, the findings come in. Participation in the arts has a significant effect — not only on people's imagination and reach, but on their social lives.

Comedia tells us that as a result of participation in local arts projects, 84 per cent of those polled feel more confident about what

they do in all areas of their life. As a result of participation in the arts, 37 per cent decide to take up a training course, 80 per cent learn new skills and 54 per cent learn about other people's cultures. A hefty 86 per cent want to be involved in further projects, while 63 per cent become keen to help in other local projects.

Local economies are stimulated, as the Gaelic festivals movement in northwest Scotland demonstrates. Children's art workshops are set up in Hounslow. Bolton uses the arts to help to address its considerable industrial decline. Museum outreach work is expanded in Nottingham. The resourcefulness of the arts as a resource is undeniable.

This is not to suggest that the arts' primary function is to assist in the better working of society. It does show, though, that one aspect of the arts is their capacity to redirect energies and to energise redirections. Kaku would be nodding his approval. I hope those in charge take the nod.

DONALD COOPER

Garret full of guilt

One danger with slightly off-centre productions is that they can lose their edge with repeated revival and lapse into routine. The danger, though, is nowhere apparent at the Coliseum as English National Opera brings back Puccini's perennial tearjerker.

For a start, Steven Pimlott's staging is off-centre only to those who demand that *La Bohème* look exactly the same as it did when they first saw it 20, 30 or 40 years ago, and it has been most faithfully revived by two loyal Pimlott lieutenants, Barry Atkinson and Frances Moore, its strengths happily intact. Those strengths include Neville Currier's poetic lighting of Tobias Hoheisel's flexible permanent set — the production was originally designed to play straight through, but now has an audience-friendly, and singer-friendly, single interval — and Ingeborg Bernerth's beautifully observed, vaguely 1960s costumes. The stage pictures are consistently gorgeous.

But the main strength remains Pimlott's discreetly cold-eyed view of both action and character. This is more than a devilish romantic story of a woman who dies: there are clearly reasons and responsibilities for her death. For a start, the presence of a wine and a starving waif does put the "poverty" of those eternal students in a sort of perspective, and the specific, though understated, "female-principle" doorway, acting area and violet light point our noses in a certain direction. Male guilt looms large in Puccini's game-plan for *La Bohème*. There is a fine cast to hand, mostly members of the company assiduously rebuilt by Dennis Marks — a process, one trusts, that will be continued by his successors. But there are no huge Italianate voices, which raises one prob-

OPERA
La Bohème
Coliseum

lem with Emmanuel Joel's expertly paced and shaped conducting; he has previously been in charge of Massenet in the house, and since the young Puccini was a less considerate orchestrator, the voices are too often covered, a problem to be sorted out as the run progresses.

But you can certainly hear Roberto Salvaroli's smouldering Marcello and Mark Beesley's exceptionally lively Colline, and as always Christopher Booth-Jones, as Schaunard, is a librettist's dream, every word crisply projected. Bonaventura Bottone sings Rodolfo for the first time with firm, penetrating if not exactly golden tone, and he gamely suppresses his natural ebullience to present Pimlott's view of a sad-sack, hapless student for Alwyn Mellor's Mimi.

Mellor, a Welsh National Opera stalwart making her ENO debut, manages that tricky combination of personal fragility and (just) vocal robustness for Mimi, and she is helpfully accompanied by Joel. Her suggestion of the woman's loneliness is as heart-rending as her tact in coping with her lover's initially crude advances is telling and horribly truthful. Some might require brassier fields than Elizabeth Woodlent fields as Museeta. But her antics in Act II could scarcely be brassier, and she cleverly underlines the character's essential seriousness and probity later on. The main thing, however, is that Puccini speaks loud and clear via the serious, thoughtful performances of this neatly balanced cast.

RODNEY MILNES



Frozen in grief: Bonaventura Bottone (Rodolfo), Alwyn Mellor (Mimi) and Mark Beesley (Colline) in Steven Pimlott's staging of *La Bohème* for English National Opera

You live in one of the less desirable corners of the former Yugoslavia. Your village has just been strafed, your house burnt, your family killed. Gunfire is still intermittently heard.

Do you think you would get enormous comfort out of acting out *Rumpelstiltskin* or *Jack and the Beanstalk* with the remnants of your former neighbours? No, I thought not. But Philip Ridley, author of the final contribution to the season that Hampstead grandly calls *New Directions*, is more optimistic. Six weeks ago he brought the theatre his *Fairytales*, a didactic children's play about the uses of lore and legend. Now he offers much the same lesson to audiences with older heads and thicker hides. Frightened by Serbs in black uniforms? Why, tell a story.

In among the shattered walls and broken furniture of Elizabeth Ascroft's set comes a small boy, followed by six

Grimm fantasy in a war zone

adults who appear to have nothing in common but torn clothes and dirty, desperate faces. They are clearly refugees from a war rumbling outside. For a long time they

THEATRE
Hampstead

say nothing, and, when they do talk, they hardly ever mention their sufferings. A woman cowers at the sound of jets. The little boy walls for his lost parents. That's about it.

Instead, they launch into a series of tales involving kings, queens, wizards and witches. A narcissistic prince insists that when he goes bald or gets thin or sick, all his

subjects shave their heads or stop eating or kill themselves. A queen refuses to let her son go into the forest outside her gold-and-diamond palace and, when he disobeys, burns just about everything and everyone, including herself. Another prince kills the dragon that was ravaging his father's garden, only to see his family gobbled up by the beast's progeny.

By now you should have twigged Ridley's drift. The fake-antique and ersatz-mythical coexist with the pointedly modern. Four-letter words abound. Child abuse, in the form of a king making passes at his daughter, puts in a fashionably gratuitous appearance. Violence and evil take on political guises, most obviously in a story about a witch who gives a blood-thirsty prince and his war-

mongering father more and more devastating weaponry, but ends up presenting him with "the most powerful weapon of all": a peaceful child.

Matthew Lloyd's cast, which includes Peter Copley, Ian Gelder and Julie Legrand, do all they can to suggest they are (a) weebegone fugitives on their last legs, and (b) eager-beaver narrators of tall tales. Similarly, Ridley works hard to reconcile Grimm-style imagination and 1990s instruction.

The overall effect is more gripping than it was with *Fairytales*, but I cannot say it left me ready to "ry the conclusion. Would an orphaned kid, stuck with strangers in the shell of his war-torn house, be so touched by a tale about whales, magic sunbeams and a pushy princess as to announce he isn't scared any more? If only.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Those who talk of a "new simplicity" in contemporary music, and the increased spiritual awareness it apparently reflects, do perhaps need to be reminded that religion and music have been practically indivisible since the beginning of civilisation. Even throughout our own cynical century many composers have found inspiration in religious conviction, and in the latest concert of the *Towards the Millennium* series, the London Sinfonietta featured four 1970s works of a spiritual nature.

Acts of Faith, as the concert was called, drew a capacity audience, enough to confuse musicians used to playing modern works in half-empty halls. The draw was probably the modish John Tavener, whose lengthy *Requiem for Father Malachy* threatened to turn the concert into an all-night vigil. At least the piece is early Tavener, and though it points towards his current style it has a ruggedness more interesting than the smooth sonorities of the new Tavener package. Markus Stenz coaxed an appropriately unvarnished performance from the orchestra and the London Sinfonietta Voices.

Another modern musical icon, Arvo Pärt, was represented by one of his best pieces, *Tabula Rasa*. Though its trance-inducing second movement has an emptiness that takes the tide too literally, the first movement of this double concerto for two violins, strings and prepared piano is like a set of snapshots of a Baroque concerto. It has a freshness of its own, and Stenz

Seventies spirits revive art of trance

CONCERT
London Sinfonietta
Queen Elizabeth Hall

conducted a fluid performance with Joan Atherton and the outstanding Cleo Gould as soloists.

The highlight of the concerts was Morton Feldman's *Rothko Chapel*, a classic of its kind

inspired by the huge Rothko canvases in the famous meditation-space in Houston. The QEH, for all the black and grey it shares with Rothko's paintings, is not an evocative space, but the performance nevertheless conjured up the stillness of the chapel. The Sinfonietta Voices, supplying the wordless chorus, made their difficult parts sound effortless, and Paul Silverthorne wove a peaceful viola solo at the end. Jonathan Harvey's *Mortuus*

Plango, Vivus Voco, a tape of computer-manipulated concrete music, made a hauntingly beautiful interlude. The electronic synthesis of a tolling bell and the reble voice of the composer's son brought an almost forgotten but quintessential Seventies sound to the evening.

JOHN ALLISON

The London Cuckolds

Three headstrong wives, three bigamous husbands and one optimistic lover caught through this delirious Restoration caper. The cast includes: Caroline Quentin, Christopher Gattner, William P. Firth and...
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YUSUF ISLAM AND MUSICIANS FROM BOSNIA WILL BE SIGNING A NEW ALBUM OF SONGS FROM THE BOSNIAN WAR AT HARRODS TODAY AT 3PM

I Have No Cannons That Roar is a new album of songs about Bosnia (two of which were written by Yusuf Islam, formerly Cat Stevens). These songs raised the morale of a people who were isolated from the outside world and left to defend themselves with home-made guns and mortars. It is moving music from the heart, released now on CD and Cassette by Jamal Records. Profits from this album will be going to charities operating in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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Winne...
A vertical advertisement strip on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. It features the word "Winne" in large letters at the top and contains several lines of smaller text and small images below.

The history of the Academy Awards is full of masterpieces that got the brush-off, says Geoff Brown

Winners that Oscar forgot

In a fit of grandeur in 1976, Steven Spielberg arranged for the television cameras to eavesdrop on the director of Jaws watching the announcement of the Oscar nominations on television...

I shouted: 'I can't believe it! They've ignored The Ice Storm!'

tions were announced, I buried my own head in my hands. I shouted: 'I can't believe it! They've ignored The Ice Storm! Other films, clearly inferior, were collecting nominations the way carrion collects flies...'



In 1946 the definitive Chandler movie The Big Sleep, starring Humphrey Bogart, was overlooked by Academy voters

emotional rollercoasters, go the full monty with sacked Sheffield steelworkers, or sink with the Titanic. Yet however it may hurt seeing The Ice Storm ignored, we should not be too surprised...

nor Modern Times was nominated Best Picture. Other milestones went without their statuette: the scorching gangster movie Scarface, the wacky comedy Bringing Up Baby...

was picked as a possible Best Picture; instead voters tipped their hats to items like The Yearling (the touching tale of a boy and his deer)...

ed en masse, and the Academy came to the conclusion that Auntie Mame, a brash and static vehicle for Rosalind Russell's hauteur, was a better picture than either Hitchcock's dream of a movie, Vertigo...

Sussex, drums and R&R

Some bands go to ground in the time between promoting albums, squirming themselves away in their studio bunker with the mute button on. Admirably, such is not the approach of Mansun as they tackle the follow-up to Attack Of The Grey Lantern...

POP

This was an animated and authoritative performance by the four-piece from Chester, with frontman Paul Draper particularly chipper, romping through Stripper Viazor while guitarist Dominic Chad added armour plating and second vocals to Mansun's Only Love Song...

Going solo: Gary Barlow gives a concert at the Hammersmith Apollo. Going solo: David Hare's The Judas Kiss opens at the Playhouse, Thursday.

This week in THE TIMES



DANCE American choreographer Bill T. Jones brings his new work to the Peacock OPENS: Tomorrow REVIEW: Thursday



CLASSICAL Seiji Ozawa and the Boston SO's Mahler tour begins at the South Bank CONCERT: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



FILM A quality cast and script for Quentin Tarantino's latest, Jackie Brown. RELEASED: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



POP Going solo: Gary Barlow gives a concert at the Hammersmith Apollo. GIG: Sunday REVIEW: Next week

POP Going solo: David Hare's The Judas Kiss opens at the Playhouse, Thursday.

PAUL SEXTON

Grid of theatre listings including Opera & Ballet, Theatres, Dance, and Popcorn sections with show titles and venues.

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A week to shout for Britain

At the start of Science Week, John Battle defends Labour's commitment to research

This week sees the start of the fifth Science Week, organised by the British Association for the Advancement of Science...

involved in "blue-skies" research. In November we launched the first four Faraday Partnerships to develop links between academia and industry...

It is supported by government campaigns to raise the profile of science, engineering and technology inside government and throughout our society...

Only last month we secured a "common position" on the fifth framework programme for EU research projects into the next century...

When I read that Jodie Foster had chosen an anonymous donor with a PhD and an IQ of 160 to father her child, I was able to react with equanimity...

Jodie Foster's decision to deny her child a father is a mistake which will probably end in unhappiness

When I was at Charterhouse, during the war, testing for IQs became an educational fashion. Major Morris, a good schoolmaster who ran the Officers Training Corps, persuaded our headmaster, Robert Birley...

I took my IQ test, and was asked to take it again. Major Morris, not unreasonably, thought there had been a mistake: I had come out too high. The results of the two tests were or less coincided...

When I read that Jodie Foster had chosen an anonymous donor with a PhD and an IQ of 160 to father her child, I was able to react with equanimity...

Those of us whose scores place us in the genius category can condescend to those who are only at the level of university professors...

This is a dim way to choose a dad

child to have a father who was significantly more intelligent than the mother.

I view the anonymous donor as having some dubious personality traits, which may be passed on to the child, though the child may equally well inherit charming genes from the donor's old Irish grandmother...

To start with, the donor is a PhD. Nothing wrong, you may think, with being a PhD: some of my best friends are PhDs, perfectly respectable people...

When I read that Jodie Foster had chosen an anonymous donor with a PhD and an IQ of 160 to father her child, I was able to react with equanimity...

Those of us whose scores place us in the genius category can condescend to those who are only at the level of university professors...

mobile young women will have chosen to have his babies. What should we call such a man? A selfish nerd, and who wants to have a selfish nerd for a father?

We know that this donor is not taking responsibility for his own actions: he, just as much as Miss Foster, is responsible for bringing a child into the world...

With the intention of producing a child he would never see, by a mother he would never meet...

In any case, the human personality cannot be measured on any single scale. Whatever is measured by IQ tests, and my own experience is that they measure the speed and facility of the mind...

In any case, Jodie Foster is mistaken in supposing either that a paternal IQ is likely to be passed on to the child, or that a high IQ is in itself particularly conducive to personal happiness...

revert towards the average level. If that is the case, Miss Foster is more likely to have a child with an IQ of 130, respectable but not brilliant...

Supposing the child inherits the father's IQ, that will not guarantee its happiness. Most university professors have high IQs, but I have not observed that they are happier or better balanced than other people...

In any case, the human personality cannot be measured on any single scale. Whatever is measured by IQ tests, and my own experience is that they measure the speed and facility of the mind...

When I was up at Balliol, the Master at the time was reported as saying: "What this college needs is more third-class men of good character..."

William Rees-Mogg

with the intention of producing a child he would never see, by a mother he would never meet...

Watch your step, Mr Brown

The Budget demands a delicate balancing act, says Peter Riddell

The Budget tomorrow has preceded by an unusually intense debate among policymakers about the state of the economy. You hadn't heard? It has barely surfaced publicly in Westminster or Whitehall...

The outlook for growth, unemployment and interest rates has barely been mentioned outside the financial pages. It is not that Mr Brown, or Tony Blair, are complacent about the economy — far from it.

The monthly meetings of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) are where the key decisions are now taken affecting people's jobs and mortgages. Its minutes, published five weeks later, are now far more significant than Sir Richard Wilson's elegant euphemisms about Cabinet discussions...

The dispute is about whether inflation is likely to stay within the target of 2.5 per cent set by the Chancellor over the next two years.



The hawks argue that the failure to raise interest rates means that they will eventually have to be increased further, and that therefore the pound will remain even longer at a very high level. The doves believe that the economy may already be slowing down faster than is officially forecast...

Mr Brown still hopes — and will forecast tomorrow — that the economy will slow down, rather than fall into a deep recession. There are obvious risks and the Blair inner circle is worried that the public is not prepared for the pain.

RIDDPELL ON MONDAY

human life than a merely superficial mental facility or cleverness. The intellectual quality that Miss Foster ought to want for her child is wisdom, rather than high IQ...

Miss Foster is also mistaken in supposing that children do not need a father. In this she, too, is a naive modernist. "I have lots of male friends who will help," she says...

The absent father is one of the tragedies of the Western world. Both sons and daughters suffer serious deprivation when the father is absent; some have the temperament to overcome their loss, others do not...

I sympathise with Jody Foster, though I do not think her arguments make any sense. Let us hope the child will be happy. As for the PhD, I would now put him on a par with the England and Wales Cricket Board.

More people can name the Spice Girls than recent British winners of Nobel prizes

which will give strategic advice to government on how we can improve our scientific and technological performance nationally and internationally.

Unlike its predecessor, it will publish its work programme and its annual and other reports. It will have a clear and open role across government to bring home the importance of science.

Its worth taking note that since the election the number of MPs who come from formal scientific and engineering backgrounds has risen to 56.

For the first time, the President of the Board of Trade is someone who has a scientific background. Margaret Beckett trained as a metallurgist.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that we use our creative imagination and scientific excellence to tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

The author is Science Minister at the Department of Trade and Industry

Fly buy

JIMMY GOLDSMITH'S beloved private plane is for sale. Asking price? £30 million. One of only five Boeing 757s adapted for private use, it propelled the old rogue from his Burgundy chateau to his Mexican hacienda in suitable comfort.



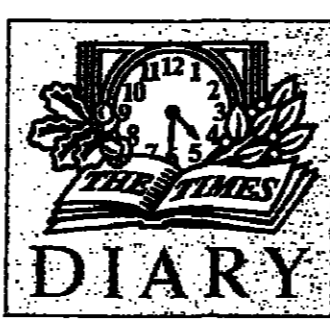
High-flyers: Jimmy and wife

With typical bravado, Sir Jimmy is said to have bought VP-CAU because it was bigger than a vast craft of a rival. In-flight life was not always smooth, however.

POETIC praise for French culture from Alan Shearer, who will lead England across the Channel for the World Cup.

Salman sauce

AFTER a decade dodging death squads, Salman Rusdie came perilously close to revealing his secret abode to that most persuasive of investigators — the dizzy blonde PR girl.



chievous spin-doctor: "I was a cheeky and impish child. Being the smallest guy at school and having to fend for yourself in the playground, you develop a character that is slightly attention-seeking."

Danny's boys

WITH the memorial service of dear Dan Farson approaching, plans are still in chaos for the tribute to the old Soho rook, Gilbert and George, the disjuncting artists who were the subject of a Farson biography...

thinking of sending some friends round to their house? Still, it promises to be a riotous affair, as Farson would surely have demanded. Entertainment will come courtesy of Lisa Stansfield, the talented chanteuse, and George Melly, whose outrageousness increases the more geriatric he grows.

CORBIN BERNSEN, the American actor who so used to excite ageing divorcees in LA Law was observed queuing in London the other day at the US Embassy with Amanda Pays, his wife.



Waiting Pays

passport for Bernsen after his had been stolen. I hope that the actor does not change his opinion that London is a haven after the dangers of LA.

Well suited

THAT lucky man Hayden Phillips, who is to become the Lord Chancellor's chief bag-carrier, has had to buy a new wardrobe. He will have to don two Gilbert and Sullivan-style outfits when he begins working for Lord Irvine of Lairg next month.

THE BBC must be hard-up. It is now slapping trademarks on just about everything. It has applied to register Dr Who's old blue telephone box and even the flowerpots in Bill and Ben.

Mr Brown is never shy of seeking a favourable headline and we will hear a lot about a Budget for Work, for the Families, for Children, for the Arts, for Enterprise, for the Environment, and so on.

The Tories will complain about taxes by stealth and "betrayals" of promises to Middle England. The Government needs to be careful about alienating its new-found middle-class supporters.

All his many measures aimed at encouraging people to work and making work pay will have little impact — apart from displacing other workers — if there is a recession. And that will be far less influenced by what Mr Brown has to say tomorrow than by what the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee decides.



JASPERS GERARD

THE SAINTS GO MA



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 14: The Princess Royal this morning inaugurated phase one of the Two Rivers Water Project, Barakase, Ghana.



Morgan Williams as a young soldier in Burma, and an extract from the Japanese soldier's pocket book

Japanese soldier's wartime diary returned to his family

By SIMON DE BRUKELLES
A POCKET BOOK belonging to a Japanese soldier who died in Burma during World War Two is being returned to his family in Wales for more than 50 years.



Morgan Williams took pocket book from looter

The soldier's family had been living in the port city of Hiroshima which was destroyed by an atomic bomb. However, despite having nothing more than a name, Miss Sameshima was eventually given a telephone number for Fujimoto's elder brother Tsuyoshi, who lives in Kobayashi.

Anniversaries today
BIRTHS: Caroline Herschel, astronomer, German, 1750-1834. James Madison, 4th American President 1751-1836.

Nature notes

Woodpeckers are eating the opening buds and flowers on many trees. There is sometimes a small party of them feeding on the young ash flowers, which are like small green and crimson cabbages.



The bullfinch

singing in waterside bushes where flies are already abundant. On hornbeam trees, the swelling leaf-buds are dappled with brown and green. On some blackthorn hedges there are sheets of white flowers on the dark twigs; the leaves will follow later.

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DEATHS
BUCKLEY - In ever-loving memory of my dear husband, John, who passed away peacefully on 11th March 1998 aged 70.

MEMORIAL SERVICES
SMITH - A Memorial Service for Oliver Ronald Smith will be held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Wednesday 6th July 1998 at 5 pm.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
FLIGHTWISE
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NEWS

Cuts may cost TA 17,000 soldiers

The Territorial Army, formed in 1908, faces savage cuts of up to 30 per cent in the government strategic defence review...

Brunel prince settles £180m court case

An abrupt end to one of the most expensive civil actions in English legal history, which provided an insight into the alleged extravagant lifestyle and sexual exploits of Prince Jefri of Brunei...

Asylum 'shambles'

The Chief Inspector of Prisons has demanded changes to the way detainees are held in immigration detention centres...

Street cred

Soap operas such as Coronation Street and Emmerdale help to preserve regional speech patterns and have made them fashionable...

Fire danger

An emergency Whitehall meeting will investigate fire officers' claims that water companies are reducing water pressure...

'Colonial' Cook

A senior Israeli official said Robin Cook was displaying a colonial attitude towards Israel as the row over the Foreign Secretary's plan to visit a controversial Jewish settlement deepened...

Blair 'too remote'

A 'presidential' Tony Blair has been warned by his closest advisers that he is becoming increasingly remote and out of touch with MPs...

Albanian arms

Albanian smugglers crossing Serbia's border openly offer free weapons and ammunition to aid the independence struggle of ethnic brethren in Kosovo...

Tobacco claim

Anti-smoking campaigners said the tobacco industry's case in forthcoming litigation had been damaged by the disclosure that as early as 1970 a British tobacco company acknowledged the link between smoking and lung cancer...

Greece joins ERM

Greece savoured a double achievement in its long-troubled EU dealings after the drachma was admitted to the Exchange Rate Mechanism and France lifted a block on starting EU entry talks for Cyprus...

Cephalonia killers

Two Albanian farmworkers have admitted killing a British couple at their Cephalonia home, Greek police said...

Gandhi coup

Sonia Gandhi's political coup in seizing the Congress Party presidency has given India its most improbable leader...

Ashdown agenda

Paddy Ashdown urged Liberal Democrats at their spring conference to stop 'navel-gazing' over links with Labour and seize their chance to influence the political agenda...

Clinton setbacks

President Clinton confronted the dual blows of an alleged link to another White House trainee, and televised testimony of a woman who claims she fondled her in the Oval Office...

Millions in US addicted to the Net

Five million Americans suffer from serious addiction to the Internet, the latest issue of Psychology Today says. Addicts — people who stay 'on line' in leisure time for 38 hours a week or more — constitute one out of every nine US Internet users...



A Moscow militiaman looks on yesterday as Russians joined the city's Irish community for early St Patrick's Day celebrations

BUSINESS

Budget: High technology companies are expected to benefit from radical proposals in the Budget, including the right to sell tax losses and a relaxation of capital gains tax for entrepreneurs...

FEATURES

Natasha Richardson: 'I'm completely driven, not for box-office stardom but for work that I believe in. You can say it's in the blood'...

TOMORROW

Homo superior: 'More than ever before, business will be the Wealth of Nations' — Melvyn Bragg on the key to national success after 2000...

SPORTS

Cricket: An opening partnership of 101 between Michael Atherton and Alec Stewart helped England to declare at 233 for 3 against West Indies in the fifth Test...

ARTS

Sleep tight: Continuing our extracts from The Sleep Solution, Nigel Ball and Nick Hough look at ways of establishing a bedtime routine and the best methods to wind down...

LAW

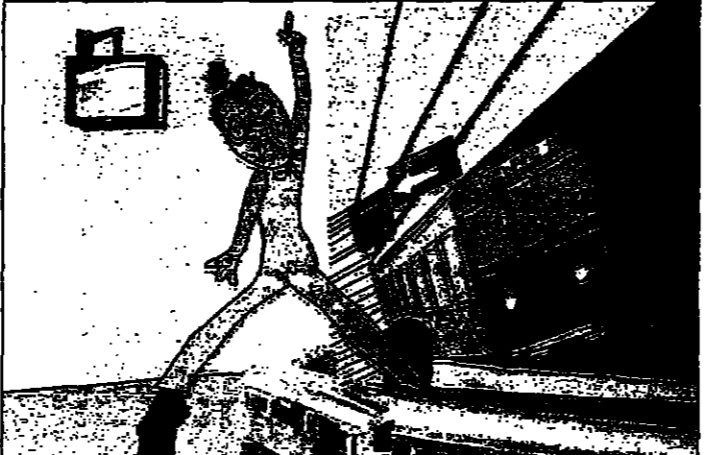
Folkloric decoration: Ukrainian peasant is the big look for next winter. Style Editor Grace Bradberry reports from the Paris collections...

IN THE TIMES

Arts Birmingham gets an exciting new art gallery. If even a lawyer has trouble with the Small Claims Court, does it need reforming?

WORLD

Brigadier Charles Armitage, wartime Gunner, Judge Dred, reggae singer, Christian Thompson, former Matron-in-Chief QARNNS...



Writing in the rain: A scene from the new Birmingham art gallery

WORLD

Serb view of Kosovo crisis: clean fuel challenge from transport industry; common agricultural policy...

WORLD

The Catholic Church must continue to examine its conscience, and rigorously confront and combat all present forms of racism, ethnic cleansing, intolerance and nationalism — La Repubblica

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,740

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 indicating starting positions for clues.

ACROSS
1 Niggardly priest promises to pay one mark to enter (12).
9 Completely safe dessert supplied to galley (9).
10 Female evangelist's unlikely blessing (5).
11 Begin to understand, on following this thread? (6).
12 Initially panicked by snake, he goes on rabbiting (8).
13 Demoralised soldiers retreating in stupid situation (6).
15 He puts things right by backing a horse (8).
18 Letting in water? Extremely unusual in underground room (8).
19 Alarm given by king in battle (6).
21 Scholarly types retail it freely (8).
23 It holds meat together at a more oblique angle (6).
26 Give fresh impetus to work initially by Descartes (5).
27 Musical boy — one rejected for following a model (9).
28 Move fast on degree? On the contrary (4,4,4).
DOWN
1 Walked about inside with a disapproving look (2-5).
2 It's highly convenient for the rest of the birds (5).
3 Unrehearsed concert I am put out about (9).
4 Honour surrounding old musician (4).
5 Sneak attending class with hesitation (8).
6 Ill-equipped female entering military group (5).
7 Amphibian shot on river in thick mist (8).
8 One who endures a servant like Gunga Din? (6).
14 It puts the edge on new tools in East (8).
16 A priest in South, pierced by snake's tongue (9).
17 Distant object worth very little until 1961 (8).
18 Italian abandons expedition to obtain plant (6).
20 Stream rushing down mountain or into river (7).
22 Argumentative type who's prepared to make use of blade? (5).
24 Forgo flutter, say (5).
25 Legal right of fellow who's been set up (4).

ROAD AND WEATHER

Table with columns for region, road number, and weather conditions.

Weather by Fax

Table listing fax numbers for various regions and their corresponding weather forecasts.

World City Weather

Table listing weather forecasts for various world cities.

Motoring

Table listing motoring information for various countries.

Car reports by fax

Table listing car reports by fax for various models.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table listing hours of darkness for various locations.

FORECAST

General: Scotland and Northern Ireland mostly wet, but northern Scotland brighter and colder in the afternoon. Northern England and North Wales mainly cloudy, some drizzle later. Rest of England and Wales dry and mild with a blip on Sunday...

24 hrs to 6 pm

Table listing 24-hour weather forecasts for various locations.

FORECAST

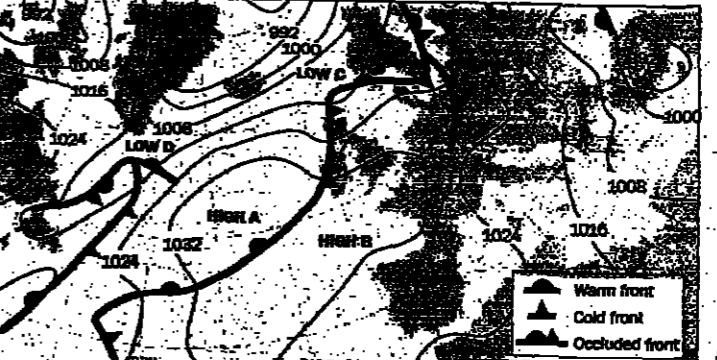
Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen early bright spells, rain by evening, mild. Fresh southwest wind. Max 14C (57F). SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland breezy, wet, brighter later. Strong southwest wind, veering northwest. Max 13C (55F). Irish Republic: cloudy, drizzle in north and west, bright intervals in east. Winds moderate to fresh, southwesterly. Max 11C (52F). Outlook tomorrow mainly dry with sunny spells. Light rain in Northern Ireland and western Scotland, spreading south-east on Wednesday and followed in the north by colder weather with sunny spells. Southern England should stay dry.

24 hrs to 6 pm

Table listing 24-hour weather forecasts for various locations.



Highs A and B will drift over Britain and decline slightly. Low C will run southeast and fill. Low D will run northeast over Scotland and deepen.



Today's highest day temperatures, Aberdeen 16C (61F); lowest day temps, Lowestoft 8C (46F); highest night temps, Lowestoft 5C (41F); lowest night temps, Lowestoft 0C (32F).

Table listing flight times and arrivals for various airlines and destinations.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,740. The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,739 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

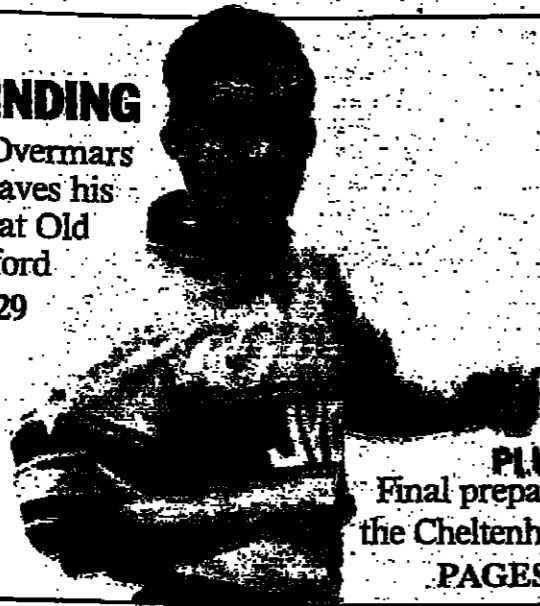
NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

Advertisement for travel insurance: 'However many times you hop across to Europe you're covered with our travel insurance. From £49.95 per year. Available to non-UK residents. 0800 700 737. No need to compromise.'

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially obscured, featuring the word 'SPELLBINDING' and 'Athena decl...'

SPELLBINDING

Overmars weaves his magic at Old Trafford
PAGE 29



SILVER SERVICE

Speed record falls once more to Rusedski
PAGE 27



STRIKE FORCE

Why tenpin bowling is on a roll
PAGE 38



PLUS
Final preparations for the Cheltenham Festival
PAGES 36, 37

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 16 1998

BATSMEN CUT LOOSE IN PURSUIT OF VICTORY IN FIFTH TEST



Stewart clips the ball past short leg during his innings of 48 in the fifth Test at Kensington Oval yesterday. He put on 101 for the first wicket with Atherton. Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

Atherton makes a clear declaration of intent

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

MICHAEL ATHERTON has made a career in recovery and a virtue out of salvage. Unflinchingly, almost perversely, he has played his best and most stirring cricket at times when his team seems beyond redemption and his personal popularity account is empty. Even as some unflattering epitaphs for his captaincy were being written, he has done so yet again to give England hope of another improbable win.

So utterly did England dominate proceedings at Kensington Oval this weekend that all things remain possible in this oscillating series — even an extended tenure for the captain. Yesterday, Atherton's own shortage of runs was purged by a three-hour 64, his first half-century in 17 Test innings since Lord's last June. It set up a declaration of this penultimate evening of this fifth Test and left West Indies nationally set 375 to win the game and prevent England going to Antigua on level terms.

Even the fuss over Atherton's momentary lapse of conduct — a V-sign caught on camera late on Friday — was calmed by altered circumstance. It was a silly, undignified gesture, unworthy of the man and his standing, but those questioning for his resignation were silent by last night.

Through the week, Atherton has betrayed unusual signs of stress, ranging from public

demeanour to private expressions. He was angry over his first-innings dismissal, then too visibly agitated in the field. He has, it seems, sensed the world ganging up on him. His have been the responses of a man being watched over with a microscope and stopwatch by those who would wish him gone.

He resisted any public admission of his gesture at Wallace on Friday, which was as foolish as the original action, but he is running this team in his own identity, however inflexible that attitude might sometimes seem. All will be forgiven and much anguish forgotten if he negotiates a win today.

Since that lamentable Thursday morning when England batted so dimly that they were fortunate to lose only four wickets, this game has taken barely conceivable twists. As England recovered their discipline and sense of purpose, West Indies lost theirs. Some of their cricket this weekend has been staggeringly inept.

Let this not detract from the quality of England's performance, however. On Saturday, when West Indies were expected to score fast and heavily, England panned, probed and persevered. Eventually, they penetrated.

It was impossible to comprehend how, after such a sprint start to their innings, West Indies could allow England to subdue them so totally. Only Lara briefly tried to assert himself, and he perished to a poor shot. Still, to

dismiss West Indies for 262 was a triumph and, for once, there was not a weak bowling link.

The pitch continued to offer little to the seam bowlers, but the seam bowlers, in turn, offered nothing to be hit. Andy Caddick and Dean Headley, who had both earned blunt rebukes from the England coaches for their profligacy on Friday evening, responded magnificently, Caddick conceding fewer runs in 14 overs than he had in his first three.

The key to the outcome of this match, though, will lie with the slow bowlers. There

has been unexpected turn and bounce and West Indies coped poorly — none more mortifyingly so than Roland Holder — whose dismissal, heaving at Ramprakash, owed much to the village green. Ramprakash bowled his off-spin very presentably, but today Tunnell, so far mainly a container, must seize the initiative.

With an overnight advantage of 141, England set out to bat past tea-time yesterday and there was little to disturb the strategy. The pitch is no longer unblemished, but neither is it milked from him routinely

and there was little threat evident from the other end, where Lara once again showed remarkable faith in the wayward Bishop.

Lara has had a peculiar game, evidenced by his glowing on Saturday evening, when he chose to express understandable dissatisfaction over the dismissal of Chandernaul to a "bump-ball" by confounding both the umpire, Eddie Nicholls, and the catcher, Stewart, on the field. Perhaps it was still distracting him yesterday. Or perhaps he was just being Lara, insistently individual. Whatever, he ignored Nixon McLean until after lunch and tolerated Bishop's inability to maintain a line. Time after time, he strayed to leg, much to the pleasure of Atherton.

Bishop was given such a long bowl that he did eventually take wickets, though by then England were serenely embarked towards their goal. Stewart was first to go, edging a short one to slip, and after Atherton had greeted his half-century with understated satisfaction, he fell to a catch behind as he tried to run the ball behind square.

Ambrose removed Butcher to a loose drive, but, with the team lead already 314, England now had Hussain and Thorpe together with a rare licence for freedom. Thorpe, in particular, indulged himself, pulling three fours off Ambrose in an over that saw England's declaration draw near.

Stewart, sharing their second century opening stand of the series, made both it and the bowling look docility itself.

Part of their success together comes from long acquaintance and the understanding that it brings. They run their singles without call or hesitation and, yesterday, they did so with a regularity disruptive to the opposition.

Hooper was summoned quickly. He has bowled his off breaks effectively all winter, but here he could not be given men around the bat and his impact was dulled. Runs were milked from him routinely

SCOREBOARD FROM BRIDGETOWN

ENGLAND: First Innings: 403 (M. R. Ramprakash 154, G. P. Thorpe 105, C. E. Hooper 5 for 80)	Second Innings:
M. A. Atherton c Williams b Bishop 64 (188min, 157 balls, 8 fours)	A. J. Stewart c Lara b Bishop 49 (147min, 103 balls, 6 fours)
M. A. Butcher c Lambert b Ambrose 26 (89min, 69 balls, 2 fours)	N. Hussain not out 36 (97min, 72 balls, 5 fours)
G. P. Thorpe not out 38 (92min, 85 balls, 5 fours)	Extras (b 1, lb 5, nb 0) 19
Total (2 dcs, 71 overs, 288min) 233	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-101 (Atherton 49, 2-129 (Butcher 26), 3-173 (Hussain 26)
BOWLING: West 12-1-40-0 (5 fours, 5-1-31-1, 5-0-0-0); Ambrose 12-4-48-7 (nb 7; 8 fours, 7-4-0, 5-0-40-1); Hooper 21-5-89-0 (3 fours, 10-3-26-0, 11-2-32-0); Bishop 14-1-51-2 (9 fcs, 5 fours, 5-1-15-0, 3-0-25-2); Chandernaul 2-9-19-0 (2 fours, 3-2-0, 2-1-11-0); McLean 7-0-18-0 (1 four, one spell)	WEST INDIES: First Innings: C. B. Lambert c Russell b Caddick 55 (225min, 197 balls, 8 fours)
P. A. Wallace bow b Headley 45 (89min, 51 balls, 3 fours)	I. R. Bishop c Russell b Tunnell 4 (67min, 38 balls)
*C. Lara c Butcher b Headley 31 (67min, 55 balls, 5 fours)	



Atherton on his way to 64

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'He has reached maturity at a time when his team is disintegrating'

Lara finds captaincy no bed of roses



At Kensington Oval

THIS crucial Test match has been incendiary and, by the time England began their second innings on Saturday night, a mighty flame was burning. The West Indians, incensed that Chandernagore had been given out caught at slip earlier in the day when he played the ball into the ground, expressed their anger clearly against the catcher, Alec Stewart, with Brian Lara giving the pot a vigorous stir.

Lara's very public private address to Stewart, as the England opening pair prepared to play out the two overs that remained, did not look particularly appetising. Whatever is said in the middle is essentially a matter for the men who exchange the barbs, but it's a fair bet to say they were not talking about any books they may have read recently.

It was Lara's way of saying: "If you want to play rough, we'll match you step for step, trick for trick" — and the fact that he delivered it in the middle, instead of the privacy of the dressing-room, was not done accidentally. Though it would be wrong to overplay this little spat, it stood out in a series that has been conducted in a spirit of comradeship. And still is.

However intense the speculation about Michael Atherton's future as England captain, Lara's leadership is attracting no less comment. He is not an endangered species — heaven above, he has just been appointed — but he has yet to persuade everybody that he is cut out for a job that has long coveted. Putting England to bat on this pitch was but one example of a man who intends to do things his own way, no matter how unfavourable the notices



Lara's expression reflects the pressure he is feeling in his leadership role as England take control in Bridgetown. Photograph: Kieran Doherty

are. There was another example yesterday of his highly individual style. After Walsh and Ambrose had opened the bowling and Hooper had quite reasonably been given a turn, Lara threw the ball to Ian Bishop ahead of Nixon McLean. Bishop is a mere shadow of the bowler he once was and should not really be anywhere near this team. McLean had to wait until the second session for his go.

It was odd captaincy, but given the way that he has chosen to lead the side, perhaps not all that perplexing. A captain must be permitted a fair amount of whim and

fancy, though indulgence is another matter. Lara's problem is that, throughout his career, he has been pampered by people who have been happy to give this immensely gifted man exactly what he wants and he has grown fat on it. As a former West Indian Test cricketer he said: "Humility is not a word in his vocabulary."

Let's not be too hard on him. He is a superb batsman and may eventually make a decent target. Randall and Wood converted short corners and kept chipping in with two goals, one from a short corner.

In the league match against Southgate on Saturday, Crutchley converted three

short corners to bring his total for the season to 38. The win left Cannock at the head of the table, three points clear of Canterbury. On the same day, Bourneville took over the leadership of the first division and earned promotion to the premier division, along with Brooklands.

MacDonald's nearest challenger, earned Clifton a 1-1 draw with Hightown when she scored four minutes after Tina Cullen had given the visitors a 54th-minute lead.

Aldridge, with goals by Jane Swinerton-Ions and Lisa Prince, both new signings and former England players, made sure of promotion from the second division just one season after they returned to the national league. However, Bracknell's home defeat by Leicester, the new first division champions, condemned them to the drop after six seasons at that level.

level at the age of 27. Lara, who has a keen sense of his own worth and who, in any case, plays a game where the individual's relationship to the team is different, is going to find his journey eventful and maybe a bit lonely. His responsibilities with Warwickshire, where he begins another captain's role next month, will not lighten the load.

Atherton's journey maintains its regular course and the kerfuffle about the V-sign on Friday, when he saluted Wallace's departure with some purple Anglo-Saxon, was of no consequence. People say ruder things in school

matches and always have done. Have we lost all sense of proportion?

In his batting yesterday, as England sought enough runs in the first two sessions to give their bowlers a good hour at West Indies after tea, Atherton batted with good sense, though, as usual, he did not work the ball into the gaps as capably as he should have done. England needed more runs in the afternoon than they managed, if only to indicate a sense of urgency on a drowsy day. All that remained was for Atherton to get his declaration right, the most important of his career.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Pinto provokes talk of London world record

ATHLETICS: Six weeks before he defends his Flora London Marathon title, Antonio Pinto, from Portugal, broke the five-year-old half-marathon world record yesterday. Try though he will, Pinto will find it impossible now to escape speculation that he might break the ten-year-old marathon world record in London on April 26. Competing in the Lisbon half-marathon, he took 4sec off the record held by Moses Tarnoi, from Kenya, since 1993.

Earlier this year, Pinto tried to play down talk of a world record in London. "In London, it is almost impossible to break the world record because of the windy weather," he said. Last year, Pinto set a London course record of 2hr 7min 55sec, 1min 5sec outside the world record. Catherina McKiernan, from Ireland, won the women's race in Lisbon.

Edwards makes up miles

SAILING: Tracy Edwards and her all-women crew on board *Royal & Sun Alliance* completed a week of 400-mile plus days yesterday, sailing 3,066 miles in a week at an average of 438 miles-a-day. The huge catamaran was yesterday encountering storm conditions about 1,200 miles south-east of Wellington, New Zealand. After 40 days at sea, Edwards is 604 miles behind the equivalent position of Olivier de Kersauson, of France, when he set the non-stop round-the-world record on *Sport-Elec* last year. On Saturday, Edwards said: "We eat, sleep and think miles, miles, miles. The speeds of the boat have been fantastic — I shall have to start handing out speeding tickets to the girls."

Nicol maintains form

SQUASH: Peter Nicol, right, the world No 1 from Scotland, completed his competitive warm-up for the British Open championship next month by winning the Austrian Open in Linz. After a five-game victory in the semi-finals, Nicol beat Chris Walker, the England captain, 11-15, 15-9, 15-10, 15-12. It was Walker's first appearance in a final for more than two years.



Oakford sinks Millwall

FOOTBALL: Millwall Lionesses, the women's FA Cup holders, were beaten 3-1 by Liverpool in a quarter-final replay yesterday. Liverpool, who now meet Arsenal, the 1993 and 1995 winners, in the semi-finals, went ahead in the eighteenth minute through Shirley Oakford, but Tina Lindsay equalised 12 minutes later. Oakford scored again late in the second half and Julie Hewitt, a substitute, then added a third. In the Premier League, Doncaster Belles defeated the leaders, Everton, 2-1, to return to the top of the table on goal difference, although the Merseysiders — previously unbeaten this season — have two games in hand.

Bowmer's inaugural win

BOWLS: Keith Bowmer, from the South Forest club, near Mansfield, won the inaugural national over-60 singles championship at Cressing, Nottingham, yesterday, when he defeated Brian Vickers 21-9. Bowmer reached the final by beating David Bryant, now 66 and well known in his heyday for winning new events at the first time of asking. Bryant looked uncomfortable yesterday, however, as he struggled to overcome a painful knee condition.

Ⓛ Pottery Leisure Resort, at Hopton-on-Sea, has won the right to stage the revived United Kingdom indoor singles championship from November 23-27.

Tomba triumphs

SKIING: Alberto Tomba, right, of Italy, won the last slalom of the men's Alpine season in Crans Montana yesterday, the fiftieth World Cup victory of his career. "This was a very important win for me, especially after my poor results in Nagano," Tomba said. "For me, the victory is more than a gold medal. It is a platinum one."

Newton lays down law

CYCLING: Chris Newton gave Team Britte the perfect start yesterday when he won the 102-mile Essex Grand Prix at Halstead, the first race of the Premier Calendar series. Newton made a move with about eight miles to go, but was pegged back by Kevin Dawson before outlasting him on the uphill climb to the finish. David Rand, the national champion in 1996, was third, 12sec behind. Gethin Butler set a course record of 56min 42sec in the 25.5-mile Porthole Grand Prix around Lake Windermere.

Woking keep team title

GYMNASTICS: Woking Gym Club retained the Adam Shield when, despite the absence of the former British champion, Lee McDermott, through injury, they beat Central Manchester by 0.3 points in the British team championships at Guildford. Michael Taylor had the highest score for Woking on 47.5, with 8.85 for vaulting and 8.35 on the high bar. Simon Elliott scored 8.65 for his vault. Central Manchester won the junior event.

HOCKEY: DEFEATS OF CANTERBURY AND SOUTHGATE MAINTAIN DOUBLE DREAM

Crutchley inspires Cannock chase

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNOCK are on course to secure the two most cherished prizes of the season, the men's EHA Cup and the premier division title in the National League. A 3-2 extra-time victory over Canterbury in the semi-finals of the cup yesterday was preceded by a 6-1 league triumph against Southgate on Saturday. Both were home matches.

According to Martin Gilbody, the Cannock manager, the cup match was not a particularly good game. "Neither side could keep possession for very long and the result could have gone either way, but we got the break in the end," he said.

Canterbury went ahead in the first minute with a goal from a short corner by Mathews. Kalbir Takher levelled the score five minutes before half-time and Crutchley shot Cannock into the lead in the fifth minute, only for Hacker to square the match three minutes later from a penalty stroke. Parnham's goal in the 77th minute, from a short corner, proved decisive.

Cannock's opponents in the final at Milton Keynes on April 5 will be Beeston, who came from behind to beat Chichester 5-2 in the other semi-final. Chichester were ahead 2-1 at half-time with goals by Richards and Locke

in answer to Hammond's equaliser for Beeston. In the second half, Beeston were on target. Randall and Wood converted short corners and kept chipping in with two goals, one from a short corner.

In the league match against Southgate on Saturday, Crutchley converted three

Thornalley courage rewarded

IT WAS a remarkable end to a season that Helen Thornalley will never forget. The Slough forward's winning goal in their final national league game against Ipswich not only preserved the champions' unbeaten record, but also marked a personal triumph.

Returning to action for the first time since undergoing abdominal surgery to remove a malignant tumour in November, Thornalley's courageous fightback has been an inspiration to her teammates.

Sue Chandler, the captain, said: "She's the most determined person I know. The last

few months have been really tough for her. It was great to welcome her back."

If her presence was a bonus, so was her classy finish after she collected a pass from Karen Brown and calmly rounded Jo Thompson in the Ipswich goal.

Sue MacDonald's opening goal for Slough in the 2-1 win left the Scotland player as the league's top scorer with 20 in her first year with the club after her move from Glasgow Western.

Denise Marston-Smith.

SNOOKER

Hendry ends his drought in style

STEPHEN HENDRY ended 12 months of frustration of not adding to his impressive portfolio of 64 tournament wins by beating John Parrott 9-6 in the final of the Thailand Masters here in Bangkok yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Hendry, who had lost five consecutive finals since winning the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters last March, displayed his former fluency on the way to claiming an unprecedented 29th world ranking event success and the £50,000 first prize.

The six-times world champion had been joint-top of that statistical category, alongside Steve Davis, since he won the International Open in Aberdeen in February 1997.

A succession of defeats during the intervening period led to the development of a band of critics who insisted that Hendry was a spent force. By winning in Thailand for the first time since the 1989 Asian Open, he has not only tempo-



Newton lays down law

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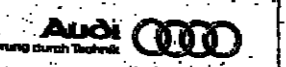
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need to buck...

Alford ready... face 60-year...

GLAND NEEDS Y... FOR THE ONE DAY...

07000...

FA Carling Premiership: Derby embarrassed by five-goal salvo from rivals for Uefa Cup berth

Outstanding Leeds on course for Europe

WHEN they named their new stadium Pride Park, Derby County were always taking a risk of being left open to ridicule. Here, after an honourable defiance all season of fate's cruel humour, the fall finally came.

It was a massacre by a quite outstanding Leeds United side, made all the more surprising by the fact that Derby's defensive record at home was only bettered by that of Manchester United before the start of this important contest between two sides slugging it out for a place in the Uefa Cup next season.

Even George Graham, the Leeds manager, could not quite believe a victory that put his team in fifth place in the FA Carling Premiership and within sight of an excursion into Europe next season.

"I don't really know how we did it. They are a very difficult side to beat and even though we came with a game-plan, you don't expect it to work so well," he said. "It's heady days isn't it? Our aim at the start of the season was Europe and, if we can stay in our current position, then it will be a great achievement."

Graham's plan was based on counter-attacking incision and, with Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Harry Kewell willing exponents, Derby's defence was exposed as ponderous for the first time since the move to their concrete monolith on the edge of town.

Hasselbaink, in particular, was a tremendous outlet for Leeds, his searing pace and grappler's strength an infuriating distraction for Derby's three-man back line. He was involved in just about everything the visitors tried, apart, curiously, from the first goal that defined the course of the game.

It arrived on nine minutes and set the tone for a diabolical defensive display by the home side. Kelly, on the left, floated in a free kick that was perhaps a little too deep. Yet with Poom, the Derby goalkeeper, rooted to his line, a Haaland challenge forced Jacob Laursen into a blind panic that saw him somehow divert the ball into his own net with his heel.

Derby responded well enough and Burton twice had chances within a few seconds, but the first shot wide when well placed and then lifted a hasty effort over the crossbar with Martyn stranded. Kelly was also forced to clear a Wanchop hand off his own line, and that, strangely, seemed to suck the will from the home team.



DERBY COUNTY 0 LEEDS UNITED 5

By David Maddock



Halle directs his shot beyond the diving Poom to put Leeds 2-0 up at Pride Park yesterday

Gross provides perfect spur

THEY were on their feet at the final whistle and on the phone in minutes, fans of a famous club who had seen their team slip one step nearer the abyss that is first division football. Emotions were raw, frustration evident, yet there was not a word of criticism, for this was the day that their team lost two points but found its soul.

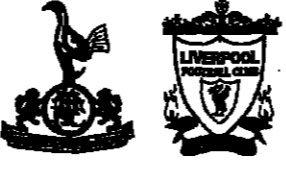
It has never been easy supporting Tottenham Hotspur. For generations, they have gone to White Hart Lane to marvel at skills and moan at shortcomings, to despair at successive teams of undoubted talent but doubtful heart. Now, however fleetingly, there was a side playing with a passion and purpose to match that in the stands.

Tottenham were outstanding in a match of unrelenting drama. Three times they took the lead: three times Liverpool came back at them, on the final occasion with only two minutes remaining. Their dismay was visible, but how good it was for supporters to see that hurt. If they play with as much spirit in the final eight matches of the season, Tottenham will avoid relegation with something to spare. And, if they do, it will be Christian Gross who should take the credit.

Gross may just have completed the psychological coup of the season. By making public his private dispute with Jürgen Klinsmann, the Tottenham head coach had appeared to drag his team to the brink of anarchy. Instead, he seems to have fostered a new sense of unity.

For the evidence, it was necessary to look no further than the contribution of David Ginola on Saturday. He made two goals, for Klinsmann and Vega, and scored the other himself, a sublime effort curled powerfully into the bottom corner of Friedel's net. It was all there: the flicks, the feints, the dribbles, the shots (yes, and the occasional drive, too). Ginola was formidable.

Yet the most telling moment came to nothing. Six minutes before half-time, slicing through the Liverpool defence on the right, he made all the room he needed for a shot. Instead, he passed. And to Klinsmann, no less. Jones cut out the threat, but the point had been made. Tottenham were pulling in the same direction: towards FA Carling Premiership safety.



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 3 LIVERPOOL 3

By Keith Pike

Barnsley bare their teeth to triumph in grisly affair

THE fixture is beginning to leap from the page. Deadline: May 10. Venue: Oakwell. Prize: to be confirmed. It is the last day of the FA Carling Premiership season, when Barnsley entertain Manchester United. A month ago, this held all the attraction of an exhibition match, an encore for the champions against doomed opponents. Now, who knows?

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, might cast an envious eye over Barnsley's recent league record, which has taken them to within a point of leaving the bottom three. He will hardly reish a situation in which United must succeed at Oakwell to retain the title. If Barnsley also need something to survive, Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, is astonished at the number of goodwill messages that continue to arrive on his desk. Imagine the postbag if he denies United.

For Ferguson, life is one fixture played repeatedly: Manchester United against the Rest of the World. Barnsley, in contrast, are everybody's second-favourite club. At least for now. Wilson joked after a third successive victory, on Saturday that they will lose popular appeal if they become a team of kickers.

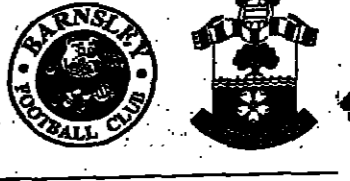
They have not slumped that low and are unlikely to do so under Wilson, but nor are they the naive, romantic outfit that began the season. In a grisly encounter against Southampton, they lost two players to facial injuries, but yielded not an inch when an open contest became increasingly physical. "It is a relief we are not playing for a fortnight so we can patch up the side," Wilson said.

David Jones, the Southampton manager, described it as a free-for-all and suggested that punches were thrown willy-nilly. When he said that he wished Gerald Ashby had retired before this, his final appearance as a Premiership referee, it tasted like especially sour grapes. As for his attempt to balance that comment by saying that his players, rather than the officials, were responsible for the defeat, then who imagined otherwise?

Culpability, as Jones admitted, lay with his own defenders. Lundekvam set the tone in the seventeenth minute, when he allowed Ward to turn and shoot inside the near post. After 32 minutes, another of his more reliable soldiers, Paul Jones, the goalkeeper, ill-advisedly came too far to collect a corner by Sheridan and was beaten to it by Scott Jones.

In between, Barnsley themselves failed to clear a high ball from Beesford, knocked on by Le Tissier, Hirst and Richardson, for Osenstad to score from eight yards. A second equaliser arrived in the 41st minute, while Scott Jones was off the field receiving treatment for a cut below the eye. Dodd skipped around Bullock and Le Tissier stole ahead of Morgan to head past Watson.

That Bullock should recover by creating an opening for Ejlertov to restore the lead two minutes later characterised the way in which Barnsley responded to mistakes. Both he and Sheridan beavered away and Redfern, the third man in an industrious midfield, converted a penalty when Lundekvam, perhaps harshly, was adjudged to have held Ejlertov in the 57th minute.



BARNSELEY 4 SOUTHAMPTON 3

By Richard Hobson



Redfern: industrious

Palace plight remains same in any language

DARIO MAGRI faced the inquisition boldly. "We have only two minutes, we have to go for the bus," he said. He stayed almost ten minutes and turned in a fine display. "It is a difficult job," he said. "You are thinking about two things - the team and the performance - and you can't let your mind run away. But from what I saw in the second half, I think I will enjoy it."

What did he think of Crystal Palace going 1-0 behind after only 58 seconds? "I thought the players did not understand what I had said, what was happening," he replied. "The player was unmarked when he scored. It would be difficult for any manager to take over Crystal Palace and get them out of trouble. I can only do my best."

Magri is not the Palace manager, though he gave the pre-match and half-time team talks. He is the interpreter for Antonio Lombardo, as of last Friday the Palace player-manager, player-coach or head of team affairs - whichever title most suitably fits the laughing stock that Crystal Palace Football Club has become. Magri is not to blame, he simply imparts the thoughts of his master.

Thus, at Villa Park on Saturday, Lombardo, the Italian, was asked for his comments on Palace's eighth successive defeat, a record-equaling loss for the club and for the FA Carling Premiership. Magri translated. Lombardo spoke and Magri translated. Only when Magri was asked for his name - "You know, like Charlie, the boxer" - did he appear the slightest bit embarrassed.



ASTON VILLA 3 CRYSTAL PALACE 1

By Russell Kempson

Thompson quenches Bolton's thirst for win

IT WAS as simple as Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, made it sound: "The one thing we had to do today was win." Not because it took his team much nearer safety - other results prevented that - but simply because, after a winless run of 12 matches stretching back to December 1, the players themselves felt they could still avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership.

"They've put in a tremendous effort today and they got their reward for the first time for a while," Todd said. "They've shown that they can do it." It was a bonus that they did it in an open, entertaining match, although how they managed it against a Sheffield Wednesday team that displayed more attacking brio for most of the 90 minutes was hard to fathom.

"We made enough chances for an away team to have come away with something," Ron Atkinson, the Wednesday manager, mused. "I'd give Bolton credit. I think they realised that, possibly, today was their last throw of the dice. We might have won it, we might have drawn the game - as it happens, we've lost the thing."

Such an outcome was barely conceivable when Booth gave Wednesday a deserved lead on 27 minutes. Atkinson's side were playing some good, one-touch stuff that must have delighted the odd entertainer. However, Frandsen's equaliser on the half-hour transformed the home team.



BOLTON WANDERERS 3 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2

By Nick Szczepanik

Advertisement for Citibank, featuring interest rates and promotional offers.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'FA Carling United' and 'Madar use win over h'.

FA Carling Premiership: Arsenal ignite title race with impressive assault on Old Trafford fortress

United stumble at champion hurdle

Dublin puts Strachan in state of flux

MANCHESTER UNITED 0 ARSENAL 1 By Oliver Holt Football Correspondent



Stun gun: Overmars threads his shot past Schmeichel to give Arsenal a richly deserved victory over Manchester United at Old Trafford on Saturday

IT WAS as if a spell had been broken, as if someone had dared to challenge the most widely accepted of tenets. For the first time since Manchester United swept past Tottenham Hotspur on the opening Sunday of the season and set off on what seemed like a quick march towards another title, Arsenal had managed to raise the possibility that someone might steal the championship from under their noses.

Until now, United's occasional shows of vulnerability have seemed almost flippant, an indulgence we have been more than happy to allow such a side. They have allowed themselves the luxury of losing the occasional game against teams that did not matter. When the big matches came along, steel entered their souls and they crushed them as a king would crush a pretender.

in hand and they will find now how difficult it is. Far worse than the defeat, which brought Arsenal to within six points of the leaders with three games in hand, was the fact that it also cost United the services of Peter Schmeichel, their goalkeeper, captain and most important player, for the next four or five weeks. He was to have been the rock on which United would have built their delicate bid to overcome AS Monaco in the second leg of their European Cup quarter-final tie in Manchester on Wednesday. Now he is gone.

tion of Giggs and the natural width that he provides on the left, has been sorely missed since he sustained that injury in the midst of his most accomplished season and without him and Butt on Saturday, United were outplayed by an Arsenal team that seems to be peaking at the right time, even without David Seaman and Ian Wright.

they were damned by faint praise, always in shadow of the champions. If there is not quite the flair about them that United have, there is a growing cohesion and solidity that sets them apart from the rest of the cullow challengers.

Saturday they were the very epitome of self-control. For once, Paul Scholes was overshadowed. Keown and Adams were unshakable at the heart of the visitors' defence and Overmars profited from the fact that Gary Neville had been switched to central defence.

fourteenth minute when he ran on to a delightful ball from Bergkamp, rounded Schmeichel and chipped just wide. He should have had a penalty midway through the half when Curtis tripped him and he poked another shot into the side-netting after dribbling past Curtis and Gary Neville.

NEWCASTLE UNITED 0 COVENTRY CITY 0 By Pat Gibson

IT MIGHT have been different if Dion Dublin had been playing centre forward and not centre half. Dublin the striker would surely have accepted one of the chances that Viorel Moldovan squandered for Coventry City. Alan Shearer might even have managed his first league goals of the season for Newcastle United but for the attentions of Dublin the defender.

It was an intriguing duel in view of recent accusations about Shearer's penchant for getting opponents into trouble and Strachan said: "I thought it was wonderful seeing two good athletes getting on with it and not being nasty. It says a lot for Dion that he has not let him score."

Table with 2 main sections: 'RUMIN TO THE TITLE' showing league positions for Manchester United and Arsenal, and 'FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP' showing a list of 20 teams with their respective statistics (P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts, GD).

Madar uses head to win over his critics

THERE is a sachein sentiment in the way that Duncan Ferguson is labelled "Big Duke" by his adoring followers at Goodison Park. Mickael Madar, a replacement for the suspended idol on Saturday, enjoys no such reverence and he had to endure some spiteful taunts during the match against Blackburn Rovers.

Old habits prove so costly for Chelsea

IT WAS supposed to have led to discord in the Chelsea squad, to have been one of the reasons that the club dispensed with the services of Ruud Geffin. Tinkering that upset team spirit was to be a thing of the past, a new era was beginning.

Heskey tumble leaves managers in dispute

JOE KINNEAR, the Wimbledon manager, thought Leicester City were lucky to go in at half-time only a goal down. Martin O'Neill, his opposite number, believed that, on their second-half performance, his team deserved at least a draw.

Box for Everton 1 Blackburn Rovers 0. Includes logos for both clubs and the text 'By David Maddock'.

Box for West Ham United 2 Chelsea 1. Includes logos for both clubs and the text 'By Peter Robinson'.

Box for Wimbledon 2 Leicester City 1. Includes logos for both clubs and the text 'By Brian Glanville'.

Nationwide League: Charlton hit back to claim valuable point after Rae's dismissal

Sunderland mix steel with style to survive

Charlton Athletic... 1 Sunderland... 1. Sunderland may have failed to dislodge Middlesbrough from second place in the Nationwide League first division table...



Ilic, the Charlton Athletic goalkeeper, comes out bravely at the feet of Johnston, the Sunderland forward, at The Valley yesterday

Ball brings big spenders down to earth

ALAN BALL is adamant that he does not covet any individual or football team. How could a World Cup-winner consciously envy others? Unless, that is, he has managed clubs who have never had the wherewithal to compete with the best in the land...

Full results and league tables... Page 32

Rae, booked earlier for a foul on Robinson, escaped when Clive Wilkes decided not to punish a worse-looking offence against Jones...

Success no guarantee when the inspector calls

BRADFORD CITY... 0 Birmingham City... 0. Success no guarantee when the inspector calls. Nearly trebled to levels last reached in 1929, when Priestley's novel The Good Companions was all the rage...

Ward and followers emerge victorious on both fronts

BRISTOL CITY... 2 Bristol Rovers... 0. THE more they advertise their differences, the more they seem the same. This is true of washing-powders, petrol brands and the tribes who inhabit football cities...

Brighton see their hopes of revival stuck in the mud

BARNET... 2 Brighton... 0. FIVE minutes before kick-off, an over-emotional Brighton fan spotted a forgotten ball outside the goalmouth and dashed on to the Barnet pitch...

Help secure your family's future for 20p a day. Legal & General advertisement featuring a circular logo with 'SUNDAY', 'MONDAY', 'TUESDAY', 'WEDNESDAY', 'THURSDAY', 'FRIDAY', 'SATURDAY' and 'SUNDAY' around the perimeter.

Barrow do justice to their intrepid supporters

DOVER ATHLETIC... 1 Barrow... 1. THE ring of coaches parked around the rugby pitches below Crabble, which had disgorged scores of supporters prepared to endure an eight-hour, 375-mile journey...

Celtic fail to take advantage of golden opportunity

THE greatest of all rivals may be the enemy within. Celtic's anxiety to win the Bell's Scottish League premier division did not quite crush them yesterday, but their form shuddered under the burden...

Kevin McCarran Scottish commentary

matches between the clubs. Celtic had won the five previous fixtures in the three competitions and Tommy McLellan, the United manager, was relieved by the improvement in his team after an apprehensive performance in the first half that might have seen them collect the complete set of defeats.

Advertisement for 'WIN FERRA' featuring a large image of a product container and the text 'EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION' and 'ENTER FANTASIA'.

Rob Hughes sees Brazil's schoolboys bring a pragmatic beat to Wembley

English pupils match the masters

When English football reaches parity with Brazil, not just in the scoreline but in style and purpose, the future must be rosy.

England have beaten Brazil at this precocious level before now, but Saturday brought a more measured equality, a smaller gulf between English physique and Brazilian touch.

It was as if the founding nation of football and the country that took World Cups out of its reach are rediscovering the common ground that appeals beyond barriers of race or culture.

It was by no means a game of free expression or boyishness. Both sides locked their talents in a formation that is German — a sweeper marshalling two defenders, full

Premiership reports... 28, 29 Old Trafford revisited... 33

backs pushed forward into a five-man midfield, two mobile, hard-running forwards. And Brazil, after 25 years deliberately attempting to ingrain European strength and system into their game, gave far less licence to artistry than in the days of Pelé.

So innocence was lost before 50,787 spectators. For spells, the teams cancelled one another out, prompting long bouts of the Mexican wave among the young while fascinating older heads with the notion that we could see clearly countries with converse philosophies moving in the same direction.

We might, in time, regret this. We might rue conformity where once there were distinct national styles. Here, the No 10s epitomised the approach. Jermain Defoe is an East Ender on the books of Charlton Athletic and trusts his touch enough to lift his head and play with invention. Defoe struck a post with a whiplash shot on the turn, several times he put his forward partner clear on goal. He



O'Brien, the England defender, stretches to get in a tackle on Wendel during the international match at Wembley on Saturday

was direct and fast. Saraiva, just 14, slender and performing out of Brazil for the first time, wore "Pelé's shirt" in a stadium that Pelé only dreamt of gracing. Now and then, Saraiva laced his game with that hypnotic quality to deceive opponents, using the sole of his boot.

Who can be bored watching such embryonic talents? Who denies the heartening signs that England, at last getting the ball down on the grass, is turning away from the indoctrination of high-ball nonsense propounded from Lancaster Gate? One match is only an impression, but, in Chris O'Brien, England had a sweeper, a captain and an organiser on a par with Matthäus, of Brazil. In Jay Bothroyd, a rangy, swift

Arsenal boy, there is obvious ambition to pursue opportunities in the manner of his role models, Ian Wright and Ronaldo. Bothroyd's directness unsettled Brazil, though his finish betrayed over eagerness and, possibly, he is a youth relearning to control the ball after the adolescent growth spurt.

The basics look sound and the willingness strong. Maybe tomorrow, when the teams meet again at the Riverside Stadium in Middlesbrough, Bothroyd will finish what he started. Maybe Brazil, having arrived in London short on overseas experience and with barely two days to acclimatise to temperatures 20 degrees below their custom, will blossom and show that there is a disparity after all.

Howard Wilkinson, the FA technical director, was not at Wembley, but he will be in Middlesbrough. His plan, to take coaching out of the hands of school volunteers and to groom boys at professional clubs, still meets resistance from teachers, who fear the ruthless way that football discards unwanted youth and the neglect of studies.

The referee on Saturday — George Courtney, now 57 — said it was difficult to see any disparity in technique. "It's hidden when teams are playing such organised systems," he said. However, once Courtney did what the law insisted he had to do — send off Rubinho, the Brazil goalkeeper, for handling the ball

outside his area to prevent Bothroyd scoring just after half-time — it was obvious that Brazil possessed the control to make the ball do the work and that England did not have the skill to make the extra man count. It was then that Eduardo, a sturdy lad, shaven-headed in Ronaldo mould and anchoring midfield, took responsibility to run the game.

England, having spent a billion pounds on transfer fees in the 1990s and one hundred million overseas in the past year, has already begun the new era. The squad on Saturday included seven boys who were on the upper age-limit of 16, six who belong to Manchester United, five who attend the FA National School and three whose fathers were professional players. "We see

your improvement." Nilson Gonsalves, the Brazil squad supervisor, said, "and we are very satisfied with the draw." If Brazil is content, can England be so far behind?

ENGLAND (3-5-2): R Evers (Swindon, Chelsea); B Clark (Durham, Manchester United); C O'Brien (Middlesbrough, Liverpool); P Clarke (Southport, Everton); M Hamshaw (Rotherham, Sheffield Wednesday); sub: J Davis, Redditch, Manchester United, 60min; S Parry (Sheff Wed, Middlesbrough); J Bennett (Sheff Wed, Bristol City); A Dodd (Sheff Wed, Manchester United); sub: M Smith, Manchester United; Manchester United, 74; A Tapp (Crewe, Warrington); sub: D Harfield, Halesowen, Manchester United, 74; J Defoe (Newham, Charlton Athletic); J Bothroyd (Gillingham, Arsenal); sub: R Logan, Colchester, Ipswich Town, 64

BADMINTON

Sun shows claws in clean sweep for Asia

By RICHARD EATON

ASIAN tiger economies may have lost some of their claws, but Asian players have not. For the second successive year at the Yonex All-England championships at the National Indoor Arena, all five titles went to players from the Far East, even though they are significantly less affluent and suddenly fewer in number.

Again, China won both singles titles, which hardly helped the 99-year-old event to promote itself as the Wimbledon of badminton, especially when the profile of the sport has been receding. Nevertheless, few would begrudge Sun Jun his men's success, which helped atone for his last visit to the United Kingdom.

In Glasgow ten months ago, he collapsed with cramp and hobbled to a harrowing defeat in the world championship final after having looked to be a certain winner at 10-5 in the final game.

On Saturday in Birmingham, Sun looked a winner from the outset. He played at such a pace and bombarded Ong Ewe Hock with such a spectacular series of attacks that he overwhelmed by 15-1, 15-7 an opponent who had been in the best form of his life.

Sun's compatriot, Ye Zhaoying, who has said that the opponent she fears most is herself, showed no sign of the nerves that afflicted her in the final two years ago as she comfortably beat her unseeded compatriot, Zhang Ning, 11-5, 11-8.

This left her with the All England, world and world grand prix titles and a mystery of how computer ranking calculations could have denied her the accolade of world No 1 as well.

Another curiosity was the failure of a strong Denmark squad, which had to settle for a runners-up position in the mixed doubles. Michael Sogaard and Rikke Olsen lost the final to the superb South Koreans; Kim Dong Moon and Ra Kyung-Min.

ICE HOCKEY

Cobras bite Panthers with late Dixon goal

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

WITH one round of quarter-final games remaining, three of the four Superleague semi-final places had been decided, with Cardiff Devils and Manchester Storm qualifying from group B and Ayr Scottish Eagles through from group A. The remaining place lay between Nottingham Panthers and Sheffield Steelers, with Sheffield slightly favoured with a home game against Newcastle Cobras to come.

Newcastle sprang the one surprise on Saturday, beating Nottingham 2-1, thanks to a goal by Paul Dixon, their defenceman, in the third minute of overtime. Sheffield and Ayr battled to a goalless draw, with Rob Dopsom, the Ayr goaltender, defying Sheffield's late efforts.

Cardiff, whose form during the latter part of the regular season was far from convincing, have certainly recovered for the play-offs and their 4-2 away win over Manchester was the result of a good all-round performance. Ian McIntyre and Mike MacWilliam put them two goals up in the first seven minutes and they were never headed. Derek Herlofsky played a vital role in goal for the Devils, who were outshot 51-29.

Bracknell Bees, who appear to have not recovered fully from the disappointment of losing the Express Cup final, gained only their second play-off win, completing a double over Basingstoke Bison in what might well have been Basingstoke's final home game. There are grave doubts over the Bison's survival at this level and their poor form during the two years of the Superleague has not helped.

Greg Gatto gave the Bison a fifty-minute lead, but goals by Colin Ward and Brian Pellerin put the Bees 2-1 ahead at the end of the first period. The teams were level at 2-2 at the second interval, but Bracknell emerged 4-3 winners. It was their seventh win over the Bison in ten meetings this season.

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TRANSFERS Use your PIN to change up to four team selections before the Brazilian race by calling 0891 355 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon Thursday March 26. Results of the Australian Grand Prix appeared last Friday.

HOW TO ENTER

Choose six drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups, left. Readers in the UK and Irish Republic can enter by calling the 24-hour hotline on 0891 40 50 01 (+44 990 100 311 Rol). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the Brazilian Grand Prix. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (max 16 characters), together with your details. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry.

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01 Damon Hill	06 Jacques Villeneuve	09 Mika Hakkinen
02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	10 Jean Alesi
03 David Coulthard	07 Heinz-Harald Frentzen	11 Rubens Barrichello
04 Giancarlo Fisichella	05 Eddie Irvine	

GROUP B DRIVERS		
12 Alexander Wurz	16 Mika Salo	20 Ricardo Rosset
13 Ralf Schumacher	17 Pedro Diniz	21 Shinji Nakano
14 Jarno Trulli	18 Jan Magnussen	22 Esteban Tuero
15 Johnny Herbert	19 Toranosuke Takagi	

GROUP C CONSTRUCTORS		
23 Williams	26 McLaren	29 Sauber
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Simon Donnelly of Celtic slices the ball past Dundee United's Erik Pedersen to open the scoring at Celtic Park yesterday. The final score was 1-1.

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

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Large advertisement for Euro Guns featuring a handgun and the text 'Euro Guns focus on your crowd'.

Eurosport damned by highs and statistics

These are heady days for British tennis. While Tim Henman's fortunes resemble increasingly the plot of a popular soap opera, Greg Rusedski looks increasingly credible as a future world No. 1. This tantalising script unfolded further in California last week and Eurosport's daily coverage ensured that we could follow every twist.

Henman's fortunes have become the talk of many a housewife. His failures are as absorbing as Rusedski's victories, yet a glaring weakness in Eurosport's corner is its failure properly to address them. The formula employed by David Mercer, the commentator, and Frew McMillan, the analyst, is strictly for the purist. That is what they

both are, of course, but they can surely do better in this admittedly thorny domain.

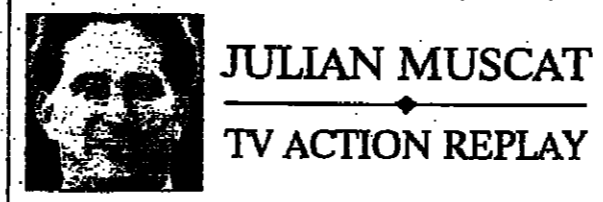
That so many sports have embraced the football ethic is far from welcome. We do not all want to see tennis coaches hung by the noose, an increasingly popular clamour in pubs of soccer fans' choosing, yet the issue of Henman's slump — and the cameo within it of his coach, David Felgate — should be seriously addressed, all the more so when Eurosport's commitment to tennis leaves it saturated with airtime.

That aside, Mercer and McMillan offer a pleasing contrast to the glut of adjectives employed by Sky's personnel. Mercer often greets a

rasping winner from Agassi with nothing more than a startled chirp. It is no bad thing to be lost for words in admiration.

Less edifying is Eurosport's infection by statistics, themselves a preoccupation of the tennis authorities. If statistics are the Mammon of sports coverage in the United States, they can paint a misleading picture in tennis, a game in which fortunes change — often imperceptibly — at regular intervals.

Tennis is largely a mind game and Mercer, to his credit, recognises the point. He rarely ventures beyond counts of aces and double faults and was rendered suitably speechless by an absurd statistic flashed on the screen



JULIAN MUSCAT
TV ACTION REPLAY

during Agassi's compelling tussle with Pat Rafter. It told us that Agassi, as comfortable at the net as a turkey at Christmas, had won all seven points when venturing forth. Such data is useless if it requires qualifying. Both Mercer and McMillan did the sensible thing in ignoring it altogether.

An obvious problem facing Eurosport was the difficulty in projecting the importance —

or lack of it — of the tournament in question. The Newsweek Champions Cup last week was among the most esteemed outside the grand slam events, but Eurosport, doubtless due to financial constraints, failed to get across that fact. This is not solely the satellite channel's problem; the game itself suffers for its lack of identity outside the big four.

Over on Grandstand, BBC1

is giving the full treatment to the Challenge Cup, the rugby league knockout competition. The game, once the preserve of winter mudbaths and die-hard supporters, has transformed itself in recent seasons and is all the better for it to the casual observer. It is now a faster game, boasting far greater skills.

Jon Champion's place in the commentary box reflects the changing nature of the beast. Champion, only the third caller in decades of BBC coverage, is far removed from the resounding northern tones employed by Ray French and Eddie Waring before him. Nevertheless, French, who did the honours on Saturday, offered a reassuring presence.

Sky, of course, inclines to-

wards hyperbole, with its near-comedy act of Eddie Hemmings and Mike Stephenson. This often serves to outdistance the game from its roots. French's more familiar tones seemed somehow more appropriate; his deep knowledge of the game exposed the often flawed observations of his resident expert, Jonathan Davies.

It will be interesting to see how Champion, himself immensely knowledgeable, develops in tandem with a changing game. Certainly, rugby league deserves its increased exposure from the BBC, whose portfolio is desperately short of attractive sport. The corporation was duly rewarded when the quarter-final between Castleford

Tigers and Sheffield Eagles on Saturday unfolded into a thrilling encounter, ably called by French, whose no-frills style was endearing. When was the last time any commentator addressed the referee as "Mr" throughout?

No such luck on Channel 4 Racing, where John McCrick continues to seek self-publicity. McCrick makes a welcome presence within a sport disinclined to allow the public too close to its heart. However, after Martin Pipe had trained the winner of the big race, we were greeted, by way of a grovel for earlier derogatory comments, to the disconcerting sight of McCrick kissing the trainer's feet. As French might have put it: "Poor Mr Pipe."

'It was still only 10 o'clock, but the air was slippery with the scent of chips and burgers and pies'

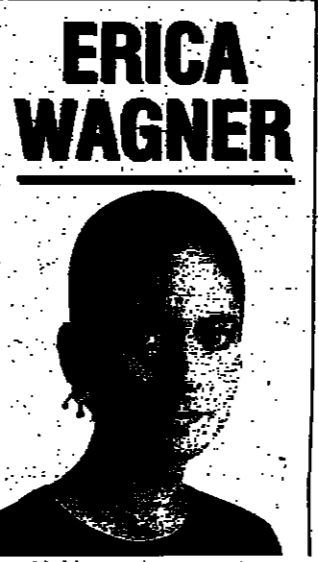
Gun sights focused on United crown

Going to Old Trafford? A chilly wind was making me huddle into my coat in the taxi queue at Manchester Piccadilly station, 9.30 in the morning and I was still feeling a little bleary from my team start. Good thing I didn't complain, though — Maria, just ahead of me in the queue and now offering to share her taxi, had got going a good two hours before that. It's a long way from Friern Barnet to the Theatre of Dreams, longer still when the dictates of satellite television mean that the journey has to be made in the small hours.

But Maria was not to be daunted. Compact as a sparrow with a mass of black curly hair and eyes bright and big behind her glasses, she'd taken early retirement from teaching French and Spanish to follow her beloved Gunners and cheerily refused to be put off by time, distance or the prospect, a fairly plausible one shortly after sunrise, that Arsenal would trail home in defeat.

"Are you meeting anyone at the ground?" I asked as we headed for Old Trafford. Our driver, laughing, had shut his window on us when it became apparent whose side at least one of us was on, but had opened it again for the gunnared debate about the morning's possibilities. I sat in awed silence, washed by the deep tide of Maria's knowledge. She goes to every game, so of course she was meeting friends at the ground — all the other supporters whom she knew and who knew her from numberless journeys such as this.

"I'm quite well known, you know," she confided to me as we left our driver (who wished us luck) and were sucked into the throng moving towards the game. She gave a demonstration of the shout — "GUNNERS!" — clearly honed by years in the classroom, that had brought her deserved



ERICA WAGNER

admiration from fellow fans. It was a hopeful shout, hopeful that without the likes of Ryan Giggs, with United's consciousness perhaps distracted by the prospect of the match against AS Monaco on Wednesday, the GUNNERS might be in with a chance.

Eager, Maria began to dodge ahead of me. The ground was before us: it was still only 10 o'clock, but the air was slippery with the scent of chips and burgers and pies. Football food knows no hour, will not be put off by the satellite masters. "I must buy a programme," she said hurriedly. "Enjoy the game!" And she meant it, but she wasn't thinking about me now: her gaze was fixed and hard. Her bright red coat slipped away from me in the crowd.

And all through the game I listened for that shout: as the minutes ticked by and the small corner of Old Trafford allotted to the Arsenal supporters — its boundary clearly demarcated by a double yellow line of stewards —



The self-styled Theatre of Dreams watches as David Beckham takes a corner during Manchester United's defeat by Arsenal on Saturday morning

rose and roared again and again for their side that would not be put off by Manchester United's nine-point lead, by the flood of support that is an animal force on their home ground. But I know speed and skill when I see it and I could see John Curtis struggling to keep up with the cheetah pace of Marc Overmars as he drove forward and forward again. His goal seemed inevitable, despite the time it took in coming: the costly derring-do of Schmeichel in the last minutes a desperate response.

As he hobbled back and forth in the penalty box before the final whistle, I wondered what on earth he'd do if Arsenal headed down

that way again: fortunately for him, and for United, it was a moot point. It seemed hardly surprising when none of the stewards, racing to the pitch in their dark jackets, ties flapping in alarm, could catch the supporter who dashed in circles round the pitch near the end of the game — it was the Arsenal boys that brought him down. It was easy enough to imagine that I could hear Maria crowing in the Gunners' corner when the final whistle went, embraced by her neighbours in the instant family that English football makes. Some things are really worth getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning for.

My outsider's view is that, in some ways, it must be bloody hard for Manchester United. If they had won, it would only have been what was expected, after all, though their fans would have been no less overjoyed for that. History weighs heavily upon them as they are forever reminded of the side they once were.

I took a late train home; a man not born, I am sure, in 1958, waved his can of Stella and sang over and over to the windows flickering, rhythmic reflection: "There's nothing like Man United, there's no one like Duncan Edwards..." Beneath the

corporate culture that has made the team into a brand name like McDonald's or Pepsi, there is this lost heart, still beating.

But perhaps that is the nature of Manchester. After the game was over I flowed out with the mostly subdued crowd, away from the hallowed stadium rearing back into the white sky (my programme informs me that if I visit the new Museum and Tour Centre in its opening month, I might be eligible to win a piece of the turf where "every blade of grass could tell a story") and into the city. It was barely 1.30pm; and so I walked to the Museum of Science and Industry in Castletown. Here is a

memorial to another lost heart, a heart made of iron and rivets and driven by steam. Huge machines, beautiful in their fearful symmetry, are still: there is a very slight mortuary feel about the place.

Now Manchester's heart has moved, changed shape: it is not the shape of an engine now but of an all-seat stadium. Manchester United has made the city's name known to the world as its industry did in another era. But there are guns trained on the target of that world domination. Their sharp report echoed, on Saturday, in the Theatre of Dreams. Maria's joy could yet increase.

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-762 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk
Please include address and telephone number

Betting on grands prix

From Mr Ian Johnston

Sir, I must take issue with the sentiments expressed in Brian Wilkinson's letter (March 9) about the Australian Grand Prix. David Coulthard's actions in allowing Mika Hakkinen to win are not without precedent in grand prix history where team-mates have traditionally assisted each other. Indeed, during the 1967 season when the Lotus Cosworths of Jim Clark and Graham Hill were superior to the field, the drivers used to toss a coin before the races to determine who should win.

Coulthard's sportsmanship does nothing to harm the tarnished image of grand prix racing. The sport can only gain from his example. Those who want to bet should stick to horse racing!

Yours faithfully,
IAN JOHNSTON,
7 Seven Sands,
Longson, Preston PR4 5BQ.

Thompson case

From Mrs Julie Thompson

Sir, I write in response to the article by your racing correspondent Richard Evans (February 27). It may surprise him to learn that telling the truth, albeit under extremely difficult circumstances, is the honourable route to take. There is no personal humiliation in honesty. Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.

Mr Evans has apparently discovered one leading trainer who declares that Derek Thompson is "definitely not favour of the month". Sadly, however, the quote is unattributed, unlike the hun-

Unpunished late tackles after scoring of tries

From Mr Huw Beynon

Sir, I have followed the game of rugby since the late 1960s and it was unusual then to see a player late-tackle another after the scoring of a try. When it did happen the referee always awarded a penalty from the restart — and that without the assistance of a linesman.

Over recent years it has become obvious from high-profile televised matches that more and more players are doing this, without punishment. Indeed it has now developed into a highly sophisticated offence, much to the annoyance of the aggrieved party. Yet when did we last see someone penalised?

No matter how close the true sportsman (such as Iwan Evans) gets to someone threatening his line, if the try is inevitable he is always able to avoid injurious intent to the scorer.

Yours faithfully,
HUW BEYNON,
37 New Road, Llanddello, West Wales SA19 6DF.

dreds of letters of support we have received from owners, racing professionals, jockeys and trainers. Rest assured there are still many people of integrity in our sport.

The tawdry references to Derek's personal life put me in mind of a quotation attributed to Margot Asquith of Lloyd George: "He could never see a belt without hitting below it."

Yours faithfully,
JULIE THOMPSON,
Ashley,
Newmarket,
Suffolk CB8 9EE.

Merging two rugby codes

From Mr Roy Stonehouse

Sir, After 103 years rugby league is obviously at a crossroad. Professionalism worldwide in rugby union has caused problems for league, not least being the departure of former union stars for the greater rewards of union and the prospect that this avenue of recruitment has closed for ever.

None of the remedial measures has been an outstanding success. The European Super League still has only two teams outside the northern heartland of league, both manned mainly by Australians; competition with Australian clubs is unlikely to be repeated, while summer rugby is far from being universally popular.

One way forward is for league to take the initiative towards creating one code of rugby football. It is unlikely that union will move towards league, so pragmatism indicates the opposite approach. This means, as I see it, going back to roots, restoring the Northern Union and playing again under union rules. That way a powerful northern professional rugby competition could be set up which would in

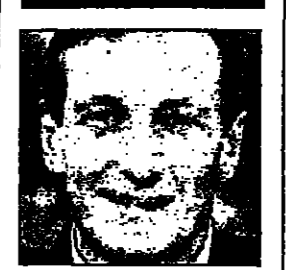
Tired in 1901

From Dr Reg Passmore

Sir, Maybe the English rugby clubs now in dispute with the RFU should consult the archives of the Yorkshire Cricket Club for 1901. Wisden's *Almanack* for 1903 reports: "Rhodes and Hirst declined the invitations extended to them [to tour Australia with A. C. MacLaren's Test team]. This action on Yorkshire's part came in for a good deal of criticism but, apart from personal considerations, the committee acted wisely in the interest of their two bowlers, who clearly stood in need of rest after their tremendous labours during the English season of 1901."

Yours faithfully,
REG PASSMORE,
54 Newbattle Terrace,
Edinburgh EH10 4RX.

This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow: Richard Dunwoody, writing exclusively for *The Times*, assesses his Cheltenham prospects

Wednesday: Reports on Aston Villa against Atlético Madrid and FA Cup replays at Sheffield United and West Ham

Thursday: The European Cup: can Manchester United survive their injury worries?

Friday: The final Test against West Indies: read Alan Lee's preview

Football Saturday: Your inside view with Steve McManaman and Danny Baker

RUGBY UNION

Saracens again flunk their Kingsholm test

Gloucester 38 Saracens 15

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MAYBE there is room at the top after all. No sooner had Newcastle lost their unbeaten record in the Allied Dunbar Premiership than Saracens...

Johnson, which carried his side 13 points clear and, just to rub London noses in the Kingsholm mud, Gloucester forced a telling series of close-range scrums...

Two penalty goals by Maplett allowed Gloucester to creep ahead once more, but Saracens raised their game...

Full results and league tables Page 39

metres for dissent and then Johns conceded a third and collected a yellow card for his pains for a second lineout obstruction within minutes...

Pinned into a corner, they suffered the indignity of a series of penalties from five-metre scrums and watched Gloucester relentlessly winding the clock down...

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Benton (15m), Filer (20), Johnson (22), Woods (70) Conversion: Maplett (3) Penalty goal: Maplett (4) (7, 45, 51, 84) Saracens: Tries: Pienaar (2), 29 Conversion: Lynch (1) Penalty goal: Lynch (2) SCORING SEQUENCE (Gloucester first): 0-7, 5-7, 8-7, 15-7, 15-10, 15-15 (half-time), 18-15, 21-15, 28-15, 35-15, 38-15



Tombs, Gloucester's Australian centre, has an unenviable task trying to escape from the attentions of Grewcock



Best brings promise of better days ahead for Irish

Wasps 19 London Irish 38

BY MARK SOUSTER

IF ONLY London Irish had played like this two weeks ago, when they were unceremoniously knocked out of the Telford's Bitter Cup by Wasps at Sunbury. They were as inept then as Wasps were at Loftus Road yesterday, the champions slumping to their heaviest home defeat since moving to their new premises...

Gloucester, Wasps reckoned that they still needed two points to be certain of avoiding the play-offs that, at the moment, appear to be the method by which relegation will be determined...

With Isaac Feanati battering holes through the Wasps' midfield, the Irish forwards gathered momentum. O'Shea should have fed Bishop, who was clear, before Wasps were caught offside at a ruck and Woods levelled the scores...

wretched pass. Wasps dived over and Woods kicked the penalty goal. Although Rees kicked his third penalty goal after 35 minutes, Woods responded two minutes later...

Matters got worse for Wasps when Irish scored their third try after 56 minutes. Venter initiated the move down the left and two phases later, was again on hand to send Feanati in at the corner: Bately, Wasps stirred themselves and Green lunged over for a consolation score...

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: O'Shea (17), O'Shea (22), Bishop (30) Conversion: Bishop (2) Penalty goal: Bishop (1) (7) London Irish: Tries: O'Shea (17), O'Shea (22), Bishop (30) Conversion: Bishop (2) Penalty goal: Bishop (1) (7)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Wasps first): 0-3, 3-3, 6-3, 6-6, 6-12, 9-12, 9-15 (half-time), 12-15, 14-15, 14-32

WASPS: K Logan (1), Grewcock (1), Seargeant (1), D Mackay, S Mitchell, W Green, M Weldon (cap), A Peck (1), S Shaw, L Deighton, M White (cap), J Worsley (7), P Schuster (cap), J Lewis (1)

LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea (cap), S Burns, D J. Barry, B Venter, M McGill, N Woods, D Humphreys, M Richards, M Venter (cap), J Fitzpatrick, B. J. Kellum (cap), A Redmond, J. McLoughlin, M. O'Connell, N Harvey, K. Spoor, K. Dawson (cap), C. Bird, G. Keenan

SCORERS: Sale: Tries: O'Connell (1), Wainwright (2), E. J. Ball (5), Conversion: Hovarth (2) Penalty goal: Hovarth (2) (25, 63) Harlequins: Try: Luger (8) Conversion: Lacroix (1) Penalty goal: Lacroix (2) (4, 14)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Sale first): 0-3, 3-3, 6-3, 6-6, 6-12, 9-12, 9-15 (half-time), 12-15, 14-15, 14-32

SALE: J. Mellor: D. Hogg (cap), M. Telford, J. Murray (1), J. Murray (2), J. Murray (3), J. Murray (4), J. Murray (5), J. Murray (6), J. Murray (7), J. Murray (8), J. Murray (9), J. Murray (10), J. Murray (11), J. Murray (12), J. Murray (13), J. Murray (14), J. Murray (15), J. Murray (16), J. Murray (17), J. Murray (18), J. Murray (19), J. Murray (20)

Cayard survives nosedive as fleet heads north again

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

PAUL CAYARD, an EF Langue, the leader in the Whitbread Round the World Race, is understandably jumpy about his rig. He wanted to replace the mast in São Sebastião, but EF Education took the syndicate mast intended for him after their dismantling in the Southern Ocean...

while Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, on Silk Cut, had a poor getaway, opting to hug the Ilha Bela shore. Twenty-four hours into the leg, the fleet was making 13-16 knots, east of Rio de Janeiro, with an east/west split of 26 miles and 18 miles separating Toshiba from the Dutch crew on BrunelSunergy, again back in last place after their spectacular second-place finish in Brazil...

The start, at 3pm local time, took place in a maelstrom of spectator craft, few of whose owners seemed to have any idea that there was a restricted starting box into which they were not supposed to stray. Nevertheless, the fleet got away cleanly southbound out of the São Sebastião Channel, drifting in following wind on a hot and humid afternoon. Cayard was the first across the line

Latest positions 39

about five miles astern of Toshiba, the leader, skippered by Paul Standbridge, of Great Britain. The start, at 3pm local time, took place in a maelstrom of spectator craft, few of whose owners seemed to have any idea that there was a restricted starting box into which they were not supposed to stray...

QUICKFIRE ASHLEY ENTERS WORLD TITLE RECKONING

BY SRIKUMAR SEN BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CRAWFORD ASHLEY, the Leeds light-heavyweight, has been promised a world championship bout if he can regain his European title. After his victory inside two rounds over York Wright, of Stevenage, at York Hall, Bethnal Green on Saturday, Frank Maloney, his promoter, said he wanted to give Ashley a world championship challenge in July on a bill topped by Lennox Lewis...

not have happened," Ashley said. "I was having personal problems and that night I didn't want to be there." However, the Norwegian is expected to give up his crown for a world title challenge, so Ashley could be boxing for the vacant title. Ashley had too much experience for Wright. The Stevenage man thought he could repeat the Klemetsen effect by reaching Ashley's chin. In so doing, he walked into two left hooks and a right hand in the second round that put him out of the contest...

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Football: Tottenham v Arsenal (7.45), Wolves v Southampton (7.45), Manchester City v Liverpool (7.45), Aston Villa v Everton (7.45), Newcastle v Blackburn (7.45), Sunderland v Derby (7.45), Middlesbrough v Reading (7.45), Cardiff v West Ham (7.45), Birmingham v Nottingham Forest (7.45), Leicester v Ipswich (7.45), Sheffield Wednesday v Wolves (7.45), Luton v Charlton (7.45), Blackpool v Barnsley (7.45), Gillingham v Leyton Orient (7.45), Millwall v Walsley (7.45), Exeter v Colchester (7.45), Stevenage v York City (7.45), Mansfield v Grimsby (7.45), Notts County v AFC Wimbledon (7.45), Boreham Wood v Eastleigh (7.45), Solihull Moors v Kidderminster (7.45), Alton v Braintree (7.45), East Thurston United v Hemel Hempstead (7.45), Maidstone United v Dover Athletic (7.45), Margate v Dover Athletic (7.45), Maidstone United v Dover Athletic (7.45), Maidstone United v Dover Athletic (7.45), Maidstone United v Dover Athletic (7.45)

Newcomers strike early to enhance prospects of lively sale

BY A CORRESPONDENT

IT COULD easily have been a body-blow, yet Sale, who have lost two of their most influential players — first Vyvyan, the No. 6, then Mannix, the fly half from New Zealand — since the start of the year, look increasingly convincing as their Telford's Bitter Cup semi-final at Wasps draws near...

O'Connell again, a 25, who captained South Africa at the World Cup seven years ago and Howarth, who has four All Black caps as a full back, have filled the vacancies to the satisfaction of John Mitchell, the coach, and proved instrumental in orchestrating the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division win over Harlequins on Saturday...

From the first minute, when the pair combined to score the opening try, they were at the heart of the action, probing insistently yet varying their tactics well with the support of an in-form pack, in which Raiwalui, Baldwin and Diamond were other heroes...

It is up front that Sale have tended to struggle this season, but they were stronger, better organised and far more dynamic than their opponents. Sheasby excepted, and it was baffling to see Wood languishing on the bench while all the other replacements were used...

Defensively, too, Sale held all the trump cards. The one try that they conceded was a gift — Boxwell's wild pass being hacked ahead by Lacroix and Luger winning the chase...

Past and entertaining though the match was, the high penalty count (35, mostly for offside) marred the contest. Harlequins were the chief offenders and Lacroix, who otherwise excelled, was sent to the sin-bin for persistent infringement...

Richm enjoy tale of Quinn

Richm enjoy tale of Quinn

Richm enjoy tale of Quinn

Richm enjoy tale of Quinn

Richm enjoy tale of Quinn

RUGBY UNION

Richmond enjoy the tale of two Quinnells

Richmond..... 30
Newcastle..... 17

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE scoreboard was not the only depressing sight for Newcastle at the Athletic Ground on Saturday. So, too, were Valaiga Tuiagala limping away on crutches and Tony Underwood wincing as the knee that kept him out of rugby before Christmas took another battering. This is where the newcomers from the North East must dig deep if the Allied Dunbar Premiership title is to be theirs.



Craig Quinnell: third try record but their place in the cup, after previously losing only to French opposition all season and there were distinct signs on Saturday that their hinge is rusty.

That hinge is the understanding between Ryan Lam and Armstrong to 14 men for an hour, bottled up so well that Newcastle stopped making the ball work and concentrated upon the physical approach. Even the inspirational Lam, tearing great swathes in Richmond ranks, did not distribute the ball so as to take advantage of Richmond's lack of numbers and only in the final ten minutes did Newcastle make the difference tell.

It was a performance of great maturity from Richmond. There has been a weight on John Kingston's shoulders this season, created by watching his own players beating the likes of Leicester and Bath but falling at lesser hurdles: that the Richmond director of rugby has felt recent criticism of himself and his players, was evident, but this was a riposte that has been waiting to happen.

minimal. The older Quinnell was sent off for knocking Paul Vanzandvliet after a frantic opening in which Williams and Weir were both shown yellow cards, but adversity brought the best from his colleagues, especially from his brother, Craig.

When Craig Quinnell puts his mind to it, there are few better forwards in England, never mind Wales, but it does not happen often enough. Kingston took up the theme that national selectors have overlooked his players shamefully ("How can Barry Williams go from Wales's first choice to third in a fortnight?" he asked), a situation that Ben Clarke may have felt. The Richmond captain saw Dean Ryan promoted into the England squad last week while he continues to be omitted and his ire was evident.

While Clarke slaved at the coalface, Quinnell Jr thundered around the field like a man possessed and scored the try just before half-time that denied Newcastle's hopes. However, even a 22-3 deficit might have been overcome but for the sheer blazing quality of Richmond's tackling, from the unsmiling Hutton in the back row to Wright, the New Zealander, in midfield.

Newcastle aided their own demise by either losing the ball in contact or turning inward for too frequently. In the first half, Tait created a try-scoring opportunity that Legg and Naylor turned to dust in the second half, they so mismanaged a 53 overlap that again the defence held firm. Even without Allan Barmann, the Wales centre, whose severe haematoma on a shin is creating doubts about his availability against Ireland on Saturday, Richmond mismanaged their game brilliantly.

The variation that Moore introduced left Adrian Davies with space to carry the game into the Newcastle half. Moore will not have played better this season, scoring his side's second try with a dummy, and dart of which Armstrong would have been proud and setting up the fourth with a backkick that his fly half latched on to before sending the speedy Chapman to the line.

Here, incidentally, were four wings to stir the imagination of the watching Clive Woodward and Andrew Harriman, respectively coach of England and manager of England A. Not one received the chances they deserved, but Brown enjoyed one glorious first-half run and proved his defensive worth playing against the New Zealanders before Christmas. Underwood scored the game's final try from close range before twisting his knee badly in a fall, leaving his place in the England squad this week in some doubt.



Michael Horak, the Leicester full back, sees the game from a different angle as he is upended by Matt Perry, of Bath, at the Recreation Ground

Guscott helps win popularity contest

Bath..... 16
Leicester..... 5

By MARK SOUSTER

ACCORDING to Cliff Brittle, the eleventh commandment is: "Thou shalt not covet the club game." The chairman of the Rugby Football Union management board thinks that the public only cares about international rugby.

Well, he is wrong. If they had a stadium to match their achievements, then Bath could have sold out this game three times over; as it is, attendances this season in the Allied Dunbar Premiership have passed the 500,000 mark already. There were also 400 people paying £125 a head for corporate hospitality at the Recreation Ground. So who is kidding who here?

"There has been huge interest this year," Andy Robinson, the Bath director of rugby, said. "We took 6,000 supporters to Bordeaux. Leicester take 10,000 on their travels."

Dean Richards, his counterpart at Leicester, said: "I can't see the point Brittle is trying to make. Leicester is a sporting orientated city. Divisional sides would take away the sporting feeling from the city. For at least six or seven games in a season, we could fit in at least 25,000 at Welford Road. To say there is no interest is totally wrong."

Richards does not dismiss either the possibility of Bath winning the league championship. "They have this habit of coming from behind at the right time," he said. Nor does Mark Evans, the Saracens director of rugby — and neither, if the truth be told, does Robinson himself. His will to win should ensure that Bath

fight the good fight until it is mathematically impossible to win. Newcastle's first defeat of the season means that Bath were only six points behind Saracens before yesterday's match, with a game in hand. Victory in the Heineken Cup has transformed their season and Robinson admits that his team is relaxed, confident and enjoying itself.

Not that there was too much to enjoy about a match that two years ago, would have been a championship decider all of its own. How times have changed and how quickly, although it can only be good for the general health of the game that Newcastle and Saracens have established a new order.

This was not vintage Bath, nor, for that matter, vintage Leicester, who are a shadow of their former selves. Errors

littered proceedings, defences dominated and much of the match got bogged down in a war of attrition. It was stalemate, yet Bath excelled in defence. There were personal scores aplenty; Mark Regan, with a point to prove against Richard Cockerill, played like a man possessed. The Bath front row had the ABC club at six and seven. Leicester badly missed Neil Back, who was ill with flu; he is the cog that turns their wheel, whether as the vital link in midfield or as a winner of loose ball. Without him, the Leicester midfield lacked shape. Generally, there were more turnovers than passes, handling was often inept and neither side could establish any control.

The try that finished Leicester's season but gave Bath's new impetus was scored after 28 seconds of the

second half. Butland fielded Stransky's restart. Ieuan Evans's run took him past two defenders and the impressive Eric Peters showed a commendable turn of foot to outpace Stransky. De Glanville kept the move alive and Jeremy Guscott rounded off the wonderful 75-metre move. That was that and there was no way back for Leicester, whose only try was scored by Craig Joiner in the first half.

SCORERS: Bath: Try: Guscott (41m); Conversion: Butland; Penalty: Bostons; Bath 14, 27, 49; Leicester: Try: Joiner (32)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Bath first): 3-0, 6-0, 8-5 (half-time), 13-5, 18-5

BATH: M Perry, I Evans, P de Glanville, J Cockerill, A Adair, R Butland (capt), J Colclough, R Hines, A Nock, D Hiron, M Regan, V Ugochi, M Hogg, N Redman (imp); D Jones, 30-35; R Eastman, R Bryan, E Peters

Weighed down by fears of relegation

Bridgend..... 24
Newport..... 13

By GERALD DAVIES

THIS match was billed by both clubs to be the most important in their history. Both are languishing at the bottom of the Welsh League premier division, one of whom, under the present stipulation, will be relegated at the end of the season. The fear of this happening dictates how they are run.

Professionalism has put a terrific strain on both clubs and, indeed, on others too. With only eight clubs in the division, the writing has been on the wall for Bridgend and Newport since before Christmas. They are forced to look no further than the next match. Existing from day to day, their rugby is forced by desperation without thought of expansion.

Bridgend, for instance, have brought together a group of young players. Their half-backs, playing youth rugby last year, looked a promising pair. The team's style of rugby in recent weeks, after a disappointing start to the season, is inventive and pacy. Yet were they to go down to the first division, such promise and their attempts to revive would soon come to naught. Rugby in Wales would be the poorer, as players shift from pillar to post. What is missing is a larger membership of the premier division.

As it is, this victory made sure that Bridgend stay in the premier division while Newport, who have yet to win a match this season, will go down. They each have four more matches to play.

The two tries of the first half emphasised the qualities of which both teams were capable. Smith's midfield break cleared the way for Llewellyn's score after eight minutes.

The home team did not respond for 25 minutes. Andrew Williams' drive breached the Newport defence, then a break and a long pass by Boobyer gave Owain Thomas a chance to show a clean pair of heels.

Park glory in the glow of amateurism

Rosslyn Park..... 35
Nottingham..... 29

By PETER BILLS

THE rugby revolution, Andy Ripley said, may be going on, "but it seems to have passed this place by". And thank the Lord, Rosslyn Park's faithful band of members might have chorused, as an Amen. The friendly London club happily continues to espouse the virtues of amateurism.

Park's 35-29 victory over Nottingham in the Jewson National League first division on Saturday provided stark confirmation that the smart set has moved on from Roehampton. Or has it? As Ripley said: "This club never had the choice about going professional, no one offered them millions to do so. But they were smart enough to turn down lesser sums."

Park's intrinsic appeal to players who do not wish to be treated as marionettes has meant a lowering of standards, yet this was a splendidly competitive, old-fashioned game in which the teams shared eight tries and the lead changed hands seven times. Nottingham are the quintessential victims of the

minefield of professionalism. When sponsors slipped, their supporters pulled the plug on a £100,000-a-year commitment and a couple of players moved on. Now, their Beeston ground is sold and finding some stability for the next two years is their priority. "I don't think anybody at Nottingham believes this club can get back to the [Allied Dunbar Premiership] first division," Barrie Corless, the part-time director of rugby, said.

Thorneycroft ensures that Bristol pay for their sins

Northampton..... 35
Bristol..... 12

By JOHN HOPKINS

NO ORDINARY match, this, and not just because Ian Hunter was making his 150th and Paul Grayson his hundredth appearance for Northampton. Hardly had proceedings begun than John Pearson, a touch judge, sent for replacement batteries to power the buzzer in his flag used to attract the referee's attention. Then Bristol became the first team in the Allied Dunbar Premiership to have two men sent to the sin-bin in one match.

Northampton managed to improve their dire try-scoring record in the Premiership, thanks to a first-half hat-trick by Harvey Thorneycroft, and others by Chandler, Allen and Johnson, but it still took their total to only 29 from 15 matches.



Allen: second-half try

Bristol are anything but ship-shape at present, with a temporary coach, a shortage of players and a bizarre fixture list. Having played three matches in the past week, their next game is not until April 10. "Would you run a business

like that?" David Egerton, the acting Bristol coach, said. "It's crazy. We've got to start putting some pattern and shape on this team. It's had two years of neglect. It's like trying to turn around a super-tanker in a day."

Bristol are not so far behind their rivals as this 23-point margin suggests. Much of that difference is accounted for by Thorneycroft's devastation and the fact that two tries were conceded when David Corkery and Jim Brownrigg were serving their time in the sin-bin. This followed a period of intense pressure by Northampton when Bristol conceded six successive penalties or free kicks.

They would say they were putting up stout defence. Brian Campsall, the referee, ruled that they were persistently offside and dealt with it appropriately. Corkery and Brownrigg seemed, by general consent, to be off the field for fewer than ten minutes, but Bristol had, in the words of Ian McGeechan, the Northampton coach, "persistently stopped the opposition getting an advantage. It [the sin-bin] made its point, didn't it?"

It was hardly something with which Egerton agreed, but perhaps that was only to be expected.

The Royal Bank of Scotland advertisement featuring the bank's logo and the slogan "is as unbiased as ever in the sponsorship of its 47th Murrayfield International."

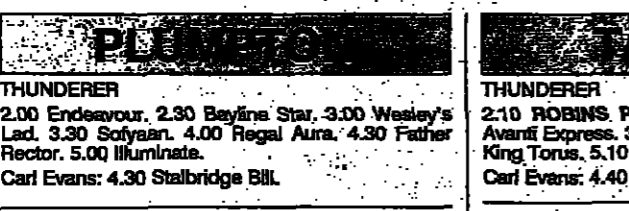
ATHLETICS

Twin profits from brotherly advice to lift national title

SOMETHING extraordinary happened at the English national cross country championships in Leeds on Saturday. One of the leaders in the junior men's race turned to another and said: "Don't wait for me. I'm not having a good one."

From that moment, with two miles to go, the gold medal was as good as around the neck of Andrew Graffin, the recipient of that useful information. It is doubtful, though, whether any other frontrunner could have identified with certainty the athlete who, given the signal, was forging ahead.

Andrew Graffin, left, races alongside his twin, Allen



Andrew Graffin, left, races alongside his twin, Allen

revealed history in the making. "We have never had twins first and second in the English National," said Ian Hodge, a leading statistician, confirmed it as fact. Senior championships first held, 1876, juniors since 1948.

Selectors ensure exciting jousts

Cathy Harris sees netball beginning to tap into a rich vein of potential

There was more at stake than the glory of capturing a title at the national schools netball championships at Northgate Sports Centre in Ipswich on Saturday. For the first time at the event, selectors were out in force, identifying talent for inclusion in the three national age-group squads.



Girls from Croydon and Willesden attempt to catch the eye in the under-14 age group

selector, has been giving the benefit of her experience to the England senior squad. Caldwell believes that it is imperative that schoolgirl talent is spotted at national championships and closely monitored. She said: "The majority of our [Australia's] present side would have come through the system and it's crucial that England do the same."

SWIMMING

Hickman's double puts China in shade

IN WHAT has become a contest to find which will dominate debate in the pool, the skills of swimmers or the ills of China, James Hickman powered home in the fifth round of the short-course Fina World Cup in Sheffield at the weekend with a Commonwealth record over 200 metres butterfly.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Result. Includes Thunderer, 2.00 Endurance, 2.30 Bayliss Star, 3.00 Westing's, 4.00 Regal Aura, 4.30 Father Reck, 5.00 Illuminata, Carl Evans: 4.00 Stairbridge Bill.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Result. Includes 2.00 WIVELSFIELD NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE, 2.30 CORINTHIAN-CASUALS NOVICES CHASE, 3.00 WEATHERBYS IT SERVICES NOVICES HURDLE, 3.30 UKFIELD HANDICAP HURDLE, 4.00 BOLNEY HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Result. Includes 2.10 WELLINGTON MONUMENT HANDICAP CHASE, 2.40 MELODY MAN CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP HURDLE, 3.10 NATWEST CORPORATE NOVICES CHASE, 3.40 SANNACOTT MAIDEN HURDLE, 4.10 MARCH SELLING HURDLE, 4.40 SOMERSET HUNTERS CHASE, 5.10 WIDCOMBE NOVICES HURDLE.

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Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Result. Includes 1.45 1, Seal By The Stars (5-4 fav), 2, Brave Highlander (8-1), 3, Eudora (100-30) 6 ran.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Result. Includes 1.50 1, Job Rage (13-8 fav), 2, Good Day (20-1), 3, Warren (2-1) 6 ran.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Result. Includes 1.55 1, Fools Like Gold (4-1), 2, Naughey (11-1), 3, Another Night (7-2), 4, Patsie Risk (2-1 fav), 5, Celtic Giant (11-1) 7 ran.

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Manners in form for Foxhunters'

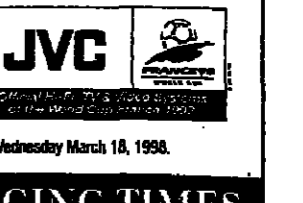
WHEN a stable strikes form, it's hard to ignore. In the case of the Foxhunters' Manners, it's hard to ignore. The stable has sent out nine winners in the past six weeks, including Cavalero at Taunton recently.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

JVC WORLD CUP QUIZ

Play every Monday - it's the next best thing to being there. In the run up to the World Cup, the most exciting sporting event of the year. The Times is teaming up with JVC to give every reader the chance to win prizes totalling £25,000.

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In the company of tenpin bowlers, only the light-fingered survive. Christian Dymond learns the secret



Pins under fire. Contrary to popular belief, a head-on shot is not the best approach



Sheer concentration: expert bowlers know that the perfect three shots — a "turkey" — requires good grip, flawless technique and just a little luck

Experience the strike of your life

In the lexicon of disparagement, a "turkey" carries much the same weight as a dud or a dodo. To tenpin bowlers, however, turkey signifies success: flattening ten pins in one go, three times in a row. In other words, three consecutive "strikes".

I never got close to a turkey — never mind a double, a four-bagger, a five-bagger or a six-pack (six strikes in a row). But considering my last brush with tenpin bowling was 30 years previously, my performance was not altogether risible.

For the past few years, tenpin bowling has been on an upward curve. From a low of between 45 and 50 centres, there are now about 220 around the country. Pat White, the president of the 23,000-member British Tenpin Bowling Association, reckons that about five million people a year pass through their doors.

The Sunderland Bowl is one of the biggest centres in Britain, pulling in nearly 2,000 people every week. There is bowling here all year round, seven days a week, from ten in the morning until midnight. Sunderland is the venue for the national championships at the end of March, which is why I wanted to visit its 32 lanes. The lanes are oiled by machine every morning to preserve the maple and pine in tiptop condition, so one of the golden rules is that you do not walk on the lanes or their approaches while wearing ordinary shoes.

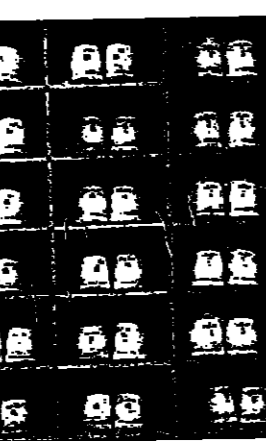
Trying to maintain a perfect surface once dictated that men could not wear shorts in competition, lest sweat from their legs dripped on to the approaches and caused bowlers to slip as they prepared for their turn. Women were exempt from this ruling. At the national championships, though, it will be solely for reasons of smartness that neither shorts nor jeans will be permitted.

My coach at Sunderland was Lee Woolrych, who has been bowling for 15 years and possesses, to prove it, a somewhat fatter thumb on his left hand than on his right.

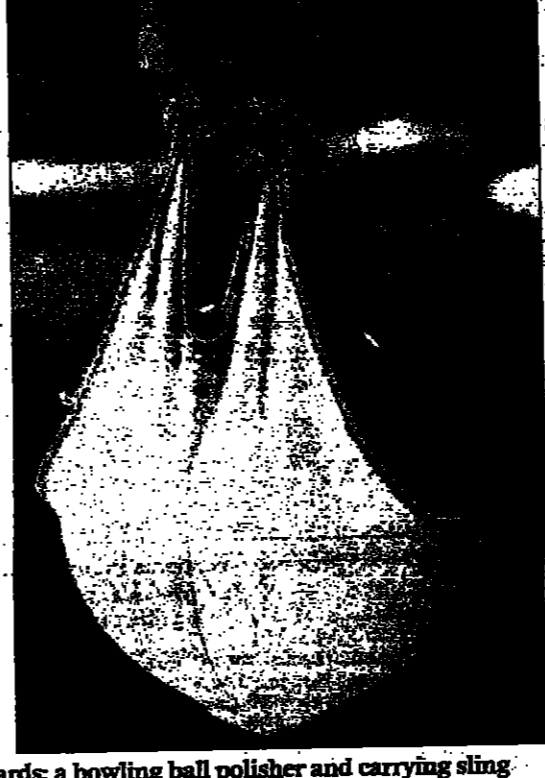
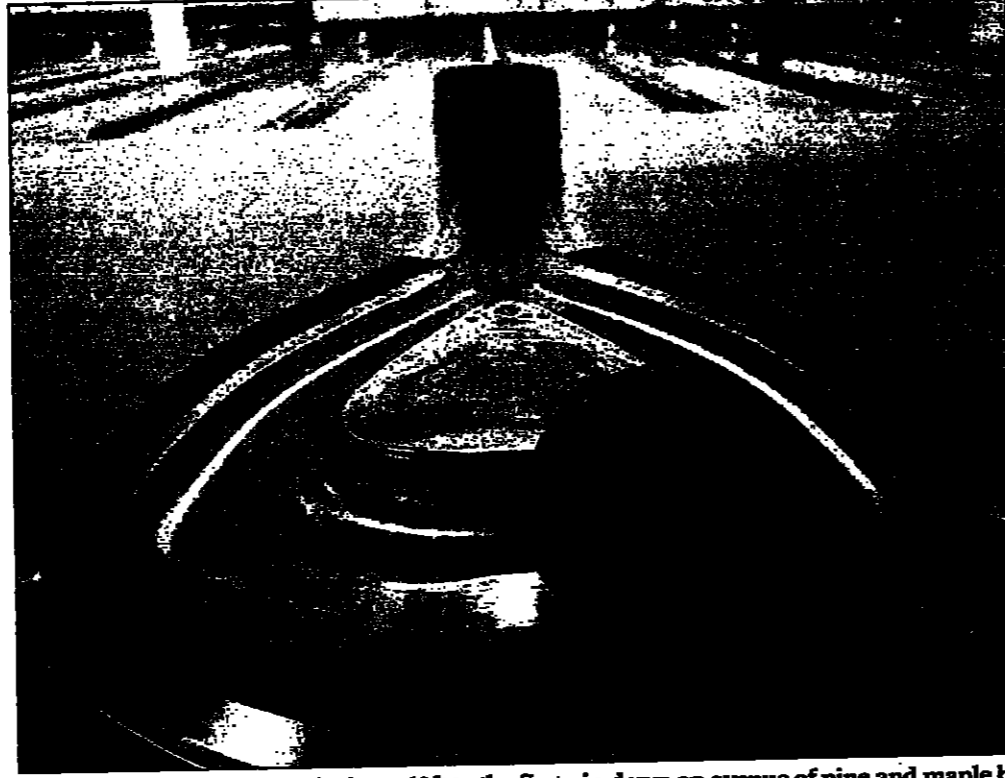
Mr Woolrych, captain of the Sunderland team for the championships, turned up with something resembling a smart shopping trolley in which he transported three 16lb balls, a pair of gloves to act as a wrist support, a towel and a pair of rather expensive shoes with soles that he could peel off and replace, depending on the surface. The towel was for wiping any excess oil off the balls, and the balls had three bespoke holes drilled in them to match exactly the gauge of his hand.

Like many serious bowlers, Mr Woolrych favours the "finger-grip release" method of discharging the ball, because of accuracy. This means that he has a very light grip on it, whereas my two fingers and thumb were reasonably well embedded. As a novice, 16lb seemed a bit heavy for a first attempt so I used a 10lb house ball — one supplied by the centre — as well as wearing house shoes.

I took my mark four paces back from what is called the foul line, held the ball in my right hand with support from my left hand, and made my approach. As I swung the right hand back, the left hand went out as a balance and meant that I lessened the



Bowling shoes stacked in their racks; the view down the lane, 60ft to the first pin down an avenue of pine and maple boards; a bowling ball polisher and carrying sling

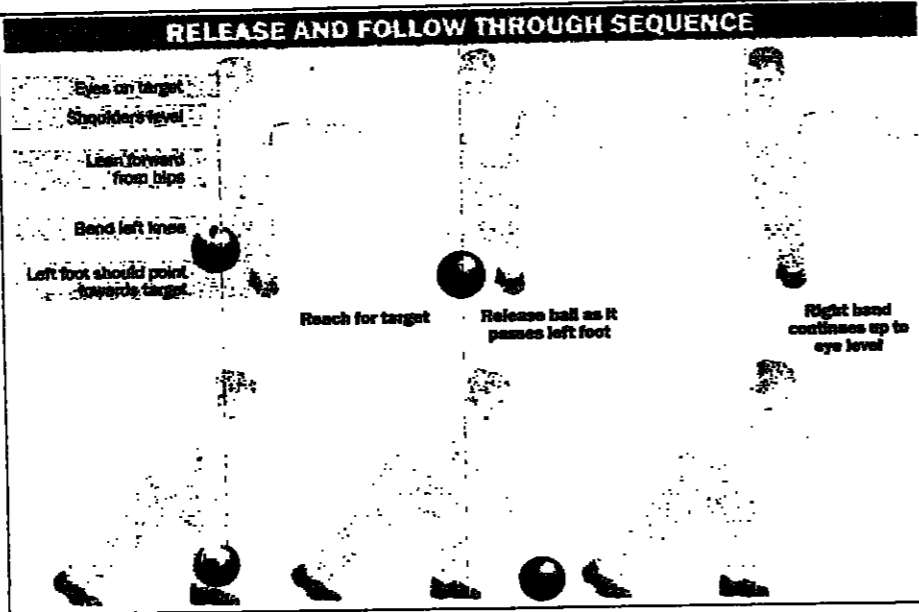


THE National Tenpin Bowling Championships, Sunderland Bowl, March 21-22 and 28-29. Saturdays 11-20.30. Sundays 9-21.30. Singles and doubles early in the day; team events in the evenings.

The British Tenpin Bowling Association, 114 Balfour Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 4JD (0181-478 1745). Annual membership is £20, but £5 for those under 18 who join through young bowling clubs. Cost of membership includes monthly copies of *Go Tenpin* magazine (usual cost £2).

Sunderland Bowl, Newcastle Road, Sunderland, SRS 1HX (0191-565 6001 or 0191-565 6018). Open from 10am until midnight seven days a week. Prices vary depending on the time of week but they start at £1.50 per game per person. Shoe hire is included.

Equipment: balls: £50-£180 each; shoes: £25-£120 a pair; gloves: £10-£30; equipment bag: £35-£40.



chances of stumbling on release of the ball.

Some bowlers spend more time studying the marker or guide arrows on the lane in front of them than the pins themselves before they let fly with the ball, and doing this certainly helped my game.

Hitting the head pin — the one at the front — 60ft away is not the way to topple all the pins. Total demolition requires hitting a spot in the left or right-hand "pocket" — the space between pins number one and two or one and three. If you are dead on target, the ball will hit four of the pins and the rest will keel over as a result. When it happened for me, this was a euphoric moment.

Experienced bowlers can "hook" or bend the ball so that what initially seems destined

to end up in the gutter running alongside the bowling lane finally swerves in like a banana and hits the tenpins' soft underbelly. Mr Woolrych said his "finger-grip release" helped such hooking of the ball.

Of the three balls he was carrying, one was used solely for this purpose. Incidentally, a heavy ball (they weigh between 8lb and 16lb for adults) and a fast delivery gives you more chance of levelling the pins. The follow-through with your arm is very important, too.

The fact that you need to be an Einstein to understand the scoring process should not put you off. In bowling centres these days, computers do everything for you. At Sunderland Bowl my score was

automatically totted up and appeared on a screen above my lane.

Suffice it to say that a strike is worth ten points plus what you score with your next two balls. A spare — that is, when it takes two balls to knock all ten pins over — receives ten points plus the number of pins you knock down with your next ball only. The maximum score in a game is 300. One game is ten frames, a match is three games.

As I took instructions, the bowling centre began to fill with people. Afternoon is the quietest time at Sunderland but by evening the place was heaving. There is a restaurant, a bar and an equipment shop. The centre runs a number of different leagues and, as at many other places, coaching is available for everyone.

"It's a great family game, very addictive and very social. It's also a sport at which everyone can have a go at any age, good or not-so-good," says Colin Barber, the manager at the Sunderland Bowl. A small number of the lanes have long bumpers or bolsters placed in the gutters so that beginners or those prone to bowling bad balls do not get too disheartened.

This autumn, tenpin bowling will be an official sport at the Commonwealth Games for the first time. Pat White of the BTRA hopes that one day soon it will grace the Olympics. "That's what we are lobbying for, anyway."



A pair of good bowling shoes will cost you at least £100

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Where good card-reading is concerned, it is often the dog that did not bark in the night that gives the vital clue. In other words, it is important to consider what does not happen as well as what does. This deal, from the 1997 world championship quarter-finals, is a case in point.

Dealer North		Game all		IMPs	
♠AQ104	♥762	♠K	♥A	♠K	♥A
♦73	♦1062	♦Q10542	♦AKJ975	♦J65	♦K10953
♣87732	♣Q84	♣J85	♣AK6	♣Q4	♣Q4
♠	♥	♦	♣	♠	♥
Pass	Pass	1C	1H	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	2H	3D	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	3H	All Pass	Pass	Pass

Contract: Three Hearts by South Lead: Eight of clubs

This auction or a variant of it occurred at a number of tables. Usually, the defence began with three rounds of clubs. One of the successful declarers was Tor Helness, of Norway. He ruffed the third club with the ten of hearts, which was allowed to hold the trick. Now, Helness played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing in dummy, then played a heart to East's bare ace. East played a fourth diamond, ruffed by West with the queen of hearts, and West exited with a spade.

The bidding and play to date made it pretty clear that East's shape was precisely 4-4-5-6. Superficially, you might think that West, who

was known to hold five spades, was five times as likely to hold a specific spade, namely the king, but, of course, that neglects the bidding.

West had turned up with the queen of hearts and jack of diamonds. If he also held the king of spades, he would have king to five spades and six high-card points. Surely, he would have bid One Spade over One Heart with that hand. So, Helness put up the ace of spades, dropping the bare king, and made his contract.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Training match

As part of its brief to promote British chess, the Staunton Society organised a four-game training match between Andrew Whiteley, the experienced international master, and Murugan Thiruchelvam, 9. The match was organised by Barry Martin and Brian Clivaz and held at Home House in Portman Square, London. In spite of stout resistance, Thiruchelvam succumbed in all four games, but gained useful experience and analytical tips from the master. Here is one encounter.

White: Andrew Whiteley
Black: Murugan Thiruchelvam

London, 1998

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	e5
2	e4	d5
3	Nc3	Nf6
4	Nf3	Be7
5	Bd4	0-0
6	e5	c6
7	Qc2	Nbd7
8	Bc3	b6
9	Bd3	Bb7
10	0-0	Re8
11	Rad1	Qc4
12	Bd4	Nc5
13	Bg3	Nc3
14	Qc3	Nf6
15	Bd3	h6
16	Nf5	Qc8
17	Ch3	Nd7
18	Nc4	Qc8
19	Nd6	Bd6
20	Bd6	Re8
21	Bh1	Qc6
22	Be1	Ba6
23	Qa2	a5
24	Re1	a5
25	Bc6	Bc2
26	Rac2	Rac2
27	Qc6	exd4

28	exd4	Nf6
29	Qc6	Qc6
30	Qc5	Qc4
31	d5	h6
32	Cc3	Qc3
33	bxw3	Nd7
34	f4	Kf7
35	Re1	b6
36	Rf1	b4
37	exd4	exd4
38	Rd4	Ke7
39	Rf7	Kd6
40	Kf2	g5
41	bg5	fgx5
42	Rc7+	Kc7
43	g5	Kc8
44	h4	Black resigns

Shirov wins

Another fine win from Alexei Shirov in his career-best performance from Linares. White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Peter Swidler
Linares, 1998

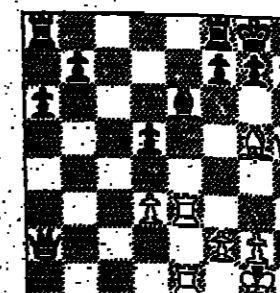
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	exd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	e6
6	Qc2	g6
7	Nf3	Be6
8	Qc2	Nd7
9	h3	h5
10	0-0	Re8
11	Kf1	Be7
12	Nd5	Bxd5
13	exd5	Nb6
14	Bd6	Qb6
15	g3	0-0
16	Bh3	Ra6
17	Rf1	a5
18	h4	Qc7
19	Bf1	Rc8
20	Bd5	Bf8
21	f4	Qd4
22	g4	Qb6
23	h5	Qc7
24	h6	Nc7
25	h6	g6
26	Be7	Re8
27	Qc5	Black resigns

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Bachmayer - Schelle, Austria 1997. White is three pawns down and must act quickly. However, the undefended state of the black kingside gives him cause for optimism. How did he continue?



Solution on page 45

By Philip Howard

TRANSponder
a. To think deeply
b. An Atlantic liner
c. A radar beacon

MARTINI HENRY
a. A unit of inductance
b. A lounge lizard
c. A rifle

MIGHTY MO

a. A US tennis star
b. A warship
c. The unforgiving minute

CAPUCHINS
a. An order of monks
b. Small pet rodents
c. Snacks with coffee

Answers on page 45

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

BERMINGHAM: All England championships... Ge Fei and Gu Jun... Ge Fei (China) 15-12, 15-12, 15-12...

TIRENO-ADRIATICO RACE

Fourth stage (Varese to Lario, 206km)... The race was won by... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

GOLF

AGADES: Moroccan Open... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

Club match

18 Watlington... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE

Pre-season... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

SCHOOLS SPORT

Football... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

WRESTLING

World Cup... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

BILIARDS

LIVERPOOL: British world match... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

ATLANTIC CITY

World... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

FLORIDA PGA

Honda... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

SKIING

CRANS MONTANA... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

SNOKER

BANGKOK... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

SQUASH

LANE... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

BOWLS

SWANSEA: Home international... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

CYCLING

PARIS-NICE... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

BOXING

YORK HALL... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY

Cardiff... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

TENNIS

ATP... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

BASKETBALL

NBA... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

ATHLETICS

London... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

WELSH LEAGUE

Cardiff... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

WOMEN'S BREAD FOR LIFE CUP

Cardiff... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

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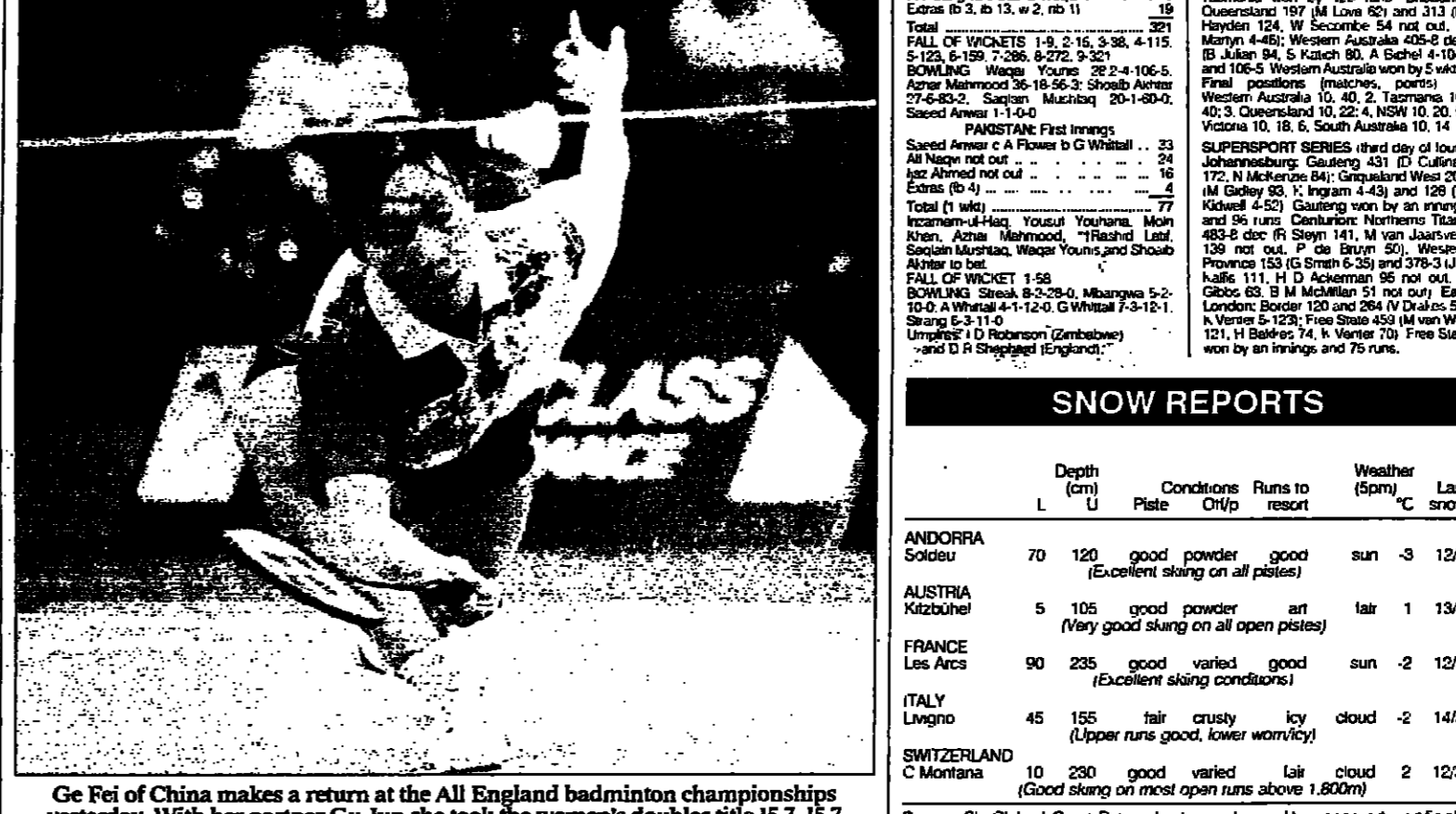
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WELSH LEAGUE

Cardiff... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...

WOMEN'S BREAD FOR LIFE CUP

Cardiff... The winner was... Ge Fei and Gu Jun...



Ge Fei of China makes a return at the All England badminton championships yesterday. With her partner Gu Jun she took the women's doubles title 15-7, 15-7

THE TIMES

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A taste of fame and fortune waits for the winners as clubs begin their quest for victory in the Lombard Trophy

A feat in Algarve lets Lucan laud it

By GEOFF HARWOOD

Andrew Lucan, a club golfer with a handicap of eight, can vividly recall the two best strokes of his life: if he should forget, he can watch the video. For it was his scrambled par at the 18th that took him and his partner into a play-off and eventual victory in the Lombard Trophy pro-am tournament, earning Whitley Bay the title of top club in the British Isles last year.

Lucan's two-iron, struck true as an arrow across the daunting lagoon at the San Lorenzo course in Portugal, followed by a chip with a ten-iron to within eight feet of the pin, set up the chance for Gary

pete in 16 regional finals of four-ball, better-ball to take place between May 27 and July 31. Up to eighty pairs will converge on each of the venues, which stretch from Beau Desert to County Louth; from Cardross, in Scotland, to Saunton, in the South West; from Newport to King's Lynn.

The winning pair from each regional final, hoping to repeat the deeds of Lucan and Donnison last October, can then pack their bags for the golfing trip of their lives.

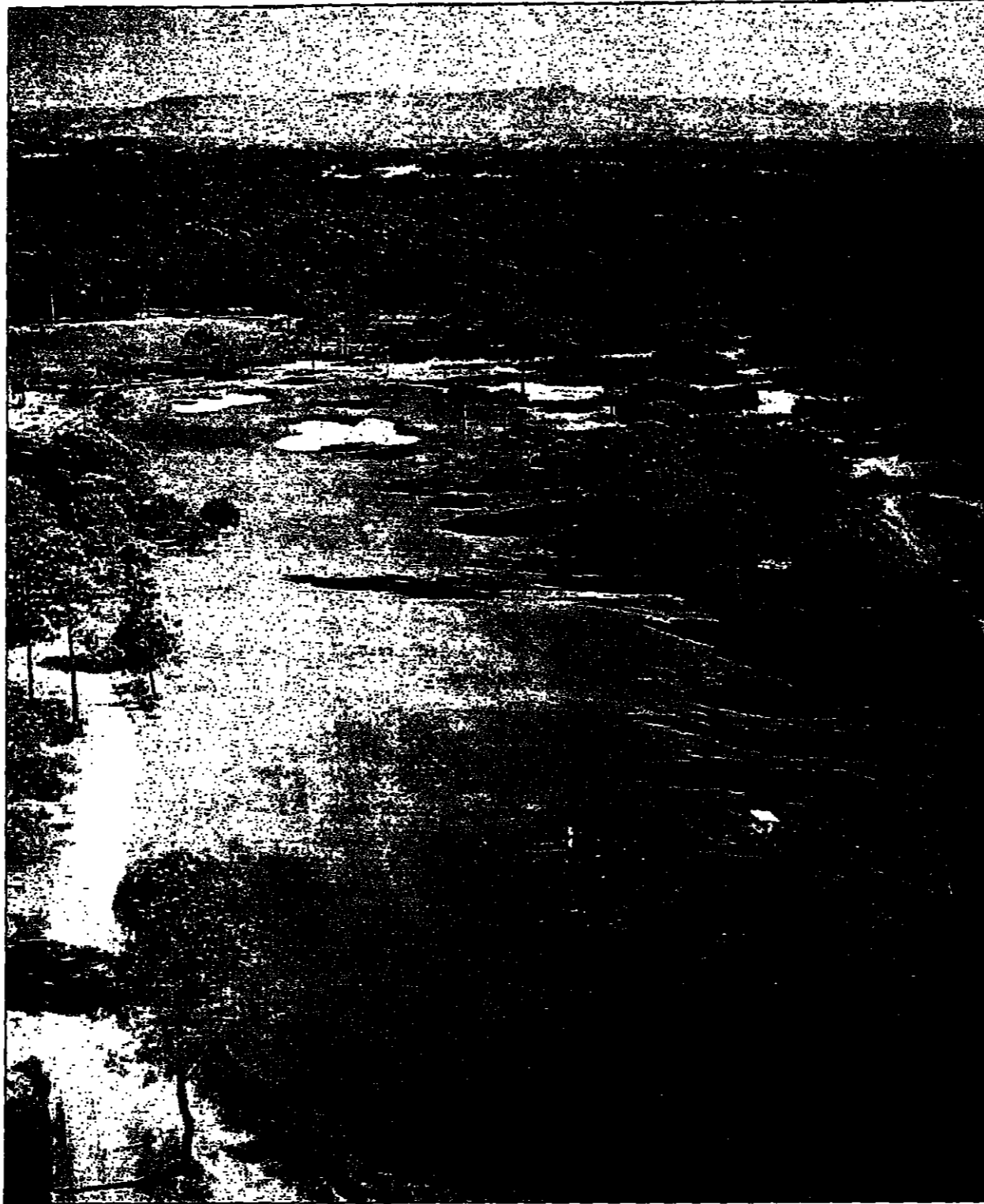
The amateur contenders during two days of a memorable final last year came from all walks of life - from a bar steward, with aspirations of becoming a golf professional, to businessmen and a diamond-setter. Their handicaps ranged from a humble 18 to a more-than-respectable five.

Lombard, the United Kingdom's leading finance house and the sponsor up to the millennium of a tournament in its fourth year, is making an investment of about £100,000 in the players who are the lifeblood of the game.

Each winning amateur in their club qualifying round will receive a Glenmuir polo shirt and slipover and a commemorative plaque; and it is still not too late to partner the club professional in the later stages. Derek Fitch, the event co-ordinator, said: "If your club has entered, make sure which medal has been nominated and make sure you play in it."

The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA), which works closely with Lombard in organising the event, sees it as an opportunity to nurture the game's grass roots.

Sandy Jones, the PGA executive director, said: "The importance to the amateur is having the opportunity to reach the final representing your club in an event that is played on one of the best championship courses of Europe, something most of us



Final destination: the San Lorenzo golf course where the Lombard final is played with television cameras in attendance

will never experience. When you put it in the context of playing with a professional and the added pressure that brings, it is unique.

"It brings the whole of Britain together. I bet all those people who have competed in the final have become friends for life. I think the important thing is that when we bring people into the game, we give them reasons for staying in the game. This is something that provides a golden memory in your mental scrapbook."

For the professionals, the prize-fund this year has swelled to £25,000, with the winner taking a one-fifth share, £4,000 going to the professional in the pair that

finishes runner-up and £3,000 for third place. Each professional who picks up a club in the final is guaranteed £600.

The triumph last year was a

turning-point in the career of Donnison, at 22 the youngest finalist, who was on the verge of giving up the game a year earlier before heeding the wise

words of encouragement from his parents. The Whitley Bay club's success abroad did not go unnoticed. "Strangers came up to me in our local supermarket to congratulate me," Donnison said. "I'm sure a lot of people who win their club qualifying medal think they're having just another outing. But I've been amazed at the interest shown in the Northumberland area since we came back."

"It has given Gary a new lease of life," Lucan said. "I'd no idea what it could all lead to - five days in glorious sunshine, five-star hotel, a fantastic course and great hospitality. I can't wait for our club qualifier for another chance."

San Lorenzo will furnish deceptive test

THE ELITE guard of the PGA European Tour know they face a stern challenge when they take to the lush fairways of the San Lorenzo golf course. In September, when some of the game's lesser mortals do combat there, they are assured of a welcome at least equal to that normally reserved for pampered professionals.

The red carpet will be rolled out in the Algarve for the grand final of the Lombard Trophy which will settle the leading club pro-am partnership in the British Isles. For five days, players from the grass roots of the game will enjoy sun, sand, sea and celebrity status while based among the five-star finery of the Hotel Dona Filipa, at Vale do Lobo.

San Lorenzo, with its pine-lined fairways and a bird sanctuary nesting in its midst, presents a deceptive picture of tranquillity. The gentle slopes of this golfing paradise provide challenges which have helped it win a place among the world's 100 leading courses.

For those taking part, the September weekend will provide a heady mix of competition and champagne, high ambition and high life. For two days, the big prize that most club players can only dream of, will be within touching distance. On the course, they are the fiercest of rivals, off the course, the best of friends.

Brought with difficulty for the best of golfers at the best of times, San Lorenzo will fray the nerves of players of more humble ability. The watchful eye of the Sky Sports crew, which presented a high-lights programme last year and is expected to do the same again, visibly adds to the pressure. The main contenders will rise to the occasion, others will crumble, but all will remember the experience.

SIXTEEN pairs from all over Britain and Ireland, will be flown out by TAP Air Portugal on September 25. A Saturday practice round will reveal the players likely to be in contention for the Trophy, embracing 36 holes of four-ball, better-ball play on Sunday and Monday.

"We are aiming to give the players a weekend which they are never likely to forget and the opportunity to win for their club a prestigious pro-

am trophy," Derek Fitch, the event co-ordinator, said.

"We try to imitate the quality of Lombard's mainstream business in the quality of the event that we organise. Obviously, if you are the leading finance house in the UK you have a very high quality of customer service," he added.

Stewart Legg, the Lombard group chief executive, emphasised that commitment. "We don't just pay and walk away. We invest time and effort, as well as money, to ensure that all of the customers and potential customers who participate have an experience to enjoy and remember," he said.

The experience of playing



The Lombard Trophy

San Lorenzo more than meets that standard, from the 1st hole - a 540-yard par-five round, a heavily bunkered dogleg - to the last, terrifying to the amateur, with a lagoon along its full 406 yards and a nerve-racking second shot over water to the green.

San Lorenzo meanders from the championship tees for a formidable 6,824 yards. With saltwater marshes and freshwater lagoons cutting into many fairways, it can sink the hopes of all but the longest and straightest of hitters.

Designed by Joseph Lee, the leading American architect, it is a course that demands constant care and attention. Which is something the finalists, professional and amateur, will have lavished on them in full measure.

GEOFF HARWOOD

REGIONAL FINAL DATES

May 27	Beau Desert	Midlands
May 29	County Down	West Midlands
June 4	Warborough	Wiltshire
June 8	Cardross	West of Scotland
June 11	Longhelly	East of Scotland
June 15	County Louth	Ireland
June 29	Sheshing Park	South East
July 3	King's Lynn	Norfolk/Suffolk
July 7	Charlton Park	South
July 9	Brookmans Park	Essex/Middlesex/Herts
July 14	Northop	North Wales/Cheshire
July 21	Newport	South West
July 23	Saunton	South West
July 27	Hasketh	North West
July 29	Patnal	North East
July 31	Redleston Park	North Midlands

Trophy reflects Lombard's drive for success



Gary Donnison, the 1997 winning professional

Golf has been a natural development in the sponsorship portfolio of Lombard. For 19 years from 1974 the group, as the United Kingdom's foremost supplier of motor finance, helped to set up the Lombard RAC Rally.

This event produced new standards for rallying and significantly increased public awareness of the sport. By 1992, Lombard decided to withdraw and to promote the image of the group to a wider business audience.

Lombard had expanded to become the leading supplier of asset finance in the UK, providing contract hire and leasing facilities for everything from main frames to medical equipment and trucks to tractors.

Sponsorship of the tournament aims to embody the company's values

Surveys have shown that 25 per cent of business decision-makers play golf and thousands more read about it. Lombard decided to establish a pro-am tournament in which any club member could take part.

It was also important that the tournament be of genuine quality because that would reflect accurately on the service of the group. As Stewart Legg, the chief executive, said: "Sponsorship isn't just about brand awareness. It also says something about the brand's values. We take care that every detail says that

Lombard is 'No 1' in every sense of the word."

Golf responded enthusiastically. In 1995, the first year of the Lombard Trophy, there were 850 entries. Every year the numbers have risen with a total in 1998 of 1,150 clubs.

Having a grand final for the top 16 clubs at the superbly equipped San Lorenzo golf club gave a seal of quality to the event and provided an incentive for players, all of whom were only two games away from participating in the final.

Lombard has been so delighted with the success of

the competition that it has now guaranteed sponsorship until at least 2000.

The drive to maintain Lombard's position as No 1 in its field has also been reflected in its sponsorship of Britain's top rowing crew - the coxless four of Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent, Tim Foster and James Cracknell.

Their world championship victory last year was due to the same strategy Lombard has adopted in business. As Legg told a staff conference last November: "The five success factors are vision, focus, speed, flexibility and operational excellence. Get these right and we will stay No 1."

JOHN GOODBODY

CLUB GOLFERS!

A GLENMUIR SHIRT AND SLIPOVER FOR EACH CLUB'S WINNER!

ENTER THE 1998 LOMBARD TROPHY AND WIN THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO THE FABULOUS ALGARVE IN SEPTEMBER

Simply enter your club's Lombard Trophy qualifying round. It costs only £1 to enter and most UK clubs have already nominated a qualifying medal round in March, April or May.

Win that medal event, then your local Regional Final playing alongside your club professional, and you will be on your way to an expenses paid trip with Lombard to the sunny Algarve in September. Competing for your club for the magnificent Lombard Trophy in front of the SKY TV cameras - it's a trip you will remember for the rest of your life!



IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PGA



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READER COMPETITION

To celebrate the launch of the 1998 Lombard Trophy, this magnificent competition offers our readers the chance to win one of the 101 super prizes.



A fabulous 1st prize.....

A superb one week holiday for two in Portugal's sunny Algarve. Staying at the magnificent Hotel Dona Filipa, enjoying Portugal's superb sandy beaches and with golf available at the famous San Lorenzo course, the winners are promised the holiday of a lifetime. The prize includes free flights with TAP Air Portugal and the holiday can be taken over a wide choice of dates between October '98 and July '99.

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A free golf lesson for each of 100 lucky readers, courtesy of the PGA. One hundred runners-up will each receive a voucher for a private golf lesson with a local PGA Professional.

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Gains tax when company quits

Claims cannot be aggregated

Dunlop International AG v Pardo (Inspector of Taxes) Before Mr Justice Lightman [Judgment March 5]

Under the provisions in the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 relating to groups of companies, a charge to corporation tax on capital gains following inter-group transfers of shares arose under section 278 (company ceasing to be a member of a group) as a result of the principal company becoming resident outside the United Kingdom. That company thus became liable for the deferred tax charge on the increased value of the shares since their acquisition by a company in the group.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer company, Dunlop International AG, from a determination of special commissioners in January 1997 relating to an estimated assessment to corporation tax for the period to May 31, 1978.

On March 19, 1978, Dunlop International, the principal company of a group of companies, purchased shares from Moorgate Industrials Ltd, a member of the international group, for £17.4 million. Moorgate had acquired those shares in 1975 when their value had been £10.9 million.

Section 273 of the 1970 Act (transfers with a group) applied to that sale so as to give rise to a no gain and no loss situation.

On May 31, 1978, Dunlop Inter-

national ceased to be resident in the United Kingdom.

The special commissioners upheld the assessment holding that the charge to corporation tax under section 278(3) of the 1970 Act was triggered by the transfer of residence so that Dunlop International was deemed to have sold and immediately re-acquired at market value the shares and thus to be chargeable to tax in respect of the increase in value of the shares over the period since their acquisition by Moorgate.

Mr David Milne, QC and Miss Elizabeth Wilson for Dunlop International; Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that section 278 of the 1970 Act formed part of a statutory scheme which enabled transfers of assets to be made within groups of companies resident within the UK without incurring any immediate liability for capital gains tax.

The inter-group transfers were treated as giving rise to a no gain/no loss situation. Any liability for the tax was transferred until the assets left the group when the tax charge could be clawed back under section 278(3).

The issue raised was as to the tax consequences of the principal company of a group of companies leaving the group by becoming resident outside the UK. That situation was now specifically addressed by section 105 of the Finance Act 1988, re-enacted in section 188 of the Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992, deemed disposal of assets on company ceasing to be resident in UK.

The issues for decision were: 1 Whether section 278 could have any application to a company like Dunlop International which was the principal company of a group; 2 If it did, then did section 278(1) apply in the situation that company ceasing to be resident in the UK? If so 3 Whether the provisions of section 278(2), exempting from section 278(1) the situation where two or more associated companies ceased to be members of the group at the same time, applied in the circumstances of the case.

Section 278 did generally apply to the case of a company ceasing to be a resident of the UK.

On Dunlop International ceasing to be resident and on its subsidiaries ceasing to be members of the group, Dunlop International ceased to be both the principal company and a member of the international group and, unless exempted by section 278(2), became a chargeable company subject to the tax charge provided for in section 278(3).

That was the plain meaning of the statutory language and the conclusion was reinforced by the consideration that there could be no sensible reason why the legislature could have intended to distinguish, from all other companies ceasing to be members of a group, a migrating company so as to confer on a migrating company a

holiday from accounting for the deferred tax charge for gains on assets removed from the group.

As the commissioners had put it, the moment of the change of residence "was an appropriate point at which to bring to an end the deferral of any gain or loss which might have arisen on the transfer of an asset from another company in the group to the company going non-resident".

Where there had been an acquisition by one associated company from another and both those associated companies ceased to be members of the group at the same time, section 278(2) relieved that acquisition from the application of section 278(1) and (3).

Section 278(4)(a) defined associated companies as two or more companies if by themselves they would form a group of companies.

In the circumstances of the case that relieving provision did not apply for the necessary relationship did not subsist when Dunlop International and Moorgate ceased to be members of the international group.

Accordingly the charge to tax under section 278(3) arose as a result of the transfer of residence of Dunlop International from the UK on May 31, 1978, it being deemed to have sold and immediately re-acquired the shares at market value on March 16, 1978.

Solicitors: Eversheds, Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Denby and Others v English and Scottish Maritime Insurance Co Ltd and Others **Yasuda Fire and Marine Insurance Company of Europe Ltd v Lloyd's Underwriting Syndicate No 229 and Others** Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice Chadwick [Judgment March 5]

On a proper understanding of the phrase "losses on risks covering an aggregate basis" in an aggregate extension clause in a whole account excess of loss agreement, protecting the reinsured for liability incurred in respect of such risks, an underlying professional indemnity policy which was expressed to cover on a per claim basis but contained an aggregate limit or an aggregate deductible, did not provide cover on an aggregate basis.

The first paragraph of the clause required examination of whether the basis of the cover provided by the reinsured to the original insured was "on an aggregate basis". It was of the antithesis of that that the cover should have been provided subject to an each and every claim excess and limit.

It followed that it was not open to the reinsured to add together causally unconnected claims which it had paid under such underlying policies and to present them to the reinsurer as one loss.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment (i) allowing appeals by the plaintiff, Mark Edmund Denby, suing on his own behalf and on behalf of all other members of syndicates 700 and 701 at Lloyd's for the years 1984 to 1990 inclusive, from a decision of Mr Justice Waller on June 14, 1996 and (ii) dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Yasuda Fire and Marine Insurance of Europe Ltd, from a decision of Mr Justice Cresswell [The Times January 24, 1996], who had upheld a decision of an arbitration panel on October 15, 1997.

Mr Richard Aikens, QC and Miss Sarah Lee for Mr Denby; Mr Adrian Hamilton, QC and Mr Christopher Butcher for English and Scottish Maritime Insurance Co; Mr Ian Hunter, QC and Mr Peter Hayward for Yasuda; Mr Gavin Kealey, QC and Mr Christopher Butcher for Lloyd's Underwriting Syndicate.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said both appeals arose out of policies of reinsurance subscribed to by underwriters at Lloyd's over ten years ago.

In each case various reinsured were seeking to recover from the reinsurers sums which the reinsured had paid under liability policies to various original assureds, typically firms of account-

Citizenship benefit irrelevant in adoption

In re B (a Minor) (Adoption Order: Nationality) Before Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Morritt and Sir Patrick Russell [Judgment March 4]

In carrying out the balancing exercise required by the considerations set out in section 6 of the Adoption Act 1976 when deciding whether or not to make an adoption order, it was necessary to distinguish between the benefits that flowed from the adoption itself as against the advantages that accrued to the child from thereby obtaining British citizenship and the right of abode in the United Kingdom.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing the appeal by the Secretary of State for the Home Department against the decision of Mr Justice Sumner on November 6, 1997 whereby he made an adoption order in respect of B, a minor, in favour of her grandparents pursuant to section 6.

The Court of Appeal held that the judge had erred in taking into account, as part of the welfare

consideration, benefits accruing from citizenship and had failed to give immigration policy proper weight.

Mr Ashley Underwood for the Home Secretary; Mr Michael Harrison, QC and Mr David Jones for B through the guardian ad litem and for the grandparents.

THE PRESIDENT said that the child was born on September 10, 1981 and was now 16 years of age. She had come to the United Kingdom with her mother from very deprived family circumstances in Jamaica, in April 1995 on a six-month visitors' permit and had remained there with her grandparents when her mother returned to Jamaica.

The judge found that she was doing extremely well at school, her family wished her to stay in the United Kingdom to complete her education and that the grandparents had been motivated by a desire to promote and safeguard B's welfare and education by keeping her with them.

They had been advised by a law centre that the only viable way of keeping B in the country was to

apply for adoption. Under section 1(5) of the British Nationality Act 1981 that would have the effect of conferring British citizenship and the right of abode on B and it was accepted that that was the motivation for the adoption application.

In *In re K (a Minor) (Adoption Order: Nationality)* [1995] Fam 38, where the child in question was only eight days short of 18, Lord Justice Balcombe had sought to indicate the right approach to the balancing exercise, holding that where the benefits accruing from the adoption, other than the acquisition of citizenship, were minimal the adoption order should be discharged.

Here B was two years short of her majority but, given that she had not been rejected by her mother or sent to her grandparents to be part of their family, it was hard to see what benefits could be ascribed to the adoption other than the right of abode.

The judge had not dissected the benefits sufficiently to separate benefits flowing from adoption from the advantages of the right of abode.

Rejecting the submission that previous Court of Appeal decisions had indicated that the welfare of the child was the first consideration and should override any public policy considerations, his Lordship said that there were dangers in confusing the purpose of adoption applications with the benefits of residence in the United Kingdom.

The judge had been misled by cases quoted to him on very different facts and, while it was assumed that each case in that area fell to be determined on its own facts, here it was clear that the application for adoption had been made for the purpose of conferring a right of abode on B so that she could continue her education.

That was something which could have been achieved in other ways, for example an application to extend the visa. Adoption was not the appropriate order.

Lord Justice Morritt and Sir Patrick Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Chivers Walsh Smith, Bradford and Irvine & Co, Bradford.

Knowingly means intentionally

Regina v Dunne Before Lord Justice Hutchison, Mr Justice Mance and Judge Ann Goddard, QC [Judgment March 6]

Where a defendant was charged with an offence of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of a prohibition on the importation of goods, contrary to section 17(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, for which he was sentenced to nine months imprisonment, suspended for two years.

Mr Charles Salter, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Craig Ferguson for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the appellant on arrival from Amsterdam had been stopped and arrested by customs officers who formed the view that the videos he had brought with him, which the appellant referred to as "blue movies", were obscene.

It had been argued on appeal that until a jury had determined whether an article was obscene within the definition in section 1(1) of the 1959 Act no one could know whether or not it was obscene, so that while at the time of the importation the person importing the article might believe it to be so he could not know until a jury had found that it was.

The Lordships rejected that argument and the suggestion that it was not possible to know something that was a matter of opinion.

The appellant, whose plea of guilty recognised that the prosecution could prove that he knew the nature of the material and that he accepted it was obscene, had no grounds for maintaining his conviction was unsafe.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

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THE FACTS

Turnover: £11 billion
 Pre-tax profit (before exceptional items): £365 million
 Shareholders' funds: £146 million
 Employees: 56,800
 Activities: Paints, adhesives, fragrances, food additives, industrial materials, industrial chemicals.

THE BOARD

Sir Ronald Hampel, 65, chairman. Joined ICI in 1985 and appointed a director in 1988. Succeeded Sir Denis Henderson as chairman in 1995. Other directorships include British Aerospace and Alcoa.

Charles Miller Smith, 58, chief executive. Appointed non-executive director in 1993 and chief executive in 1995. Formerly finance director of Unilever and is currently non-executive director of HSBC.

Alan Spall, 53, finance director. Joined ICI in 1970 and was appointed a director in 1994. Formerly a director of ICI Specialties.

James Kennedy, 60, executive vice-president National Starch. Appointed 1997. He joined National Starch in 1962 and became its chief executive officer in 1990. He oversees ICI's US activities.

Rob Margatta, 51, executive vice-president, industrial chemicals and materials. To become vice-chairman in May. Became a director in 1992. He is also a non-executive director of English China Clays, and Legal & General and a governor of Imperial College.

Sir Antony Pilkington, 62, non-executive. Appointed in 1991. He was formerly chairman of Pilkington and a director of NatWest and GKN.

Sir Roger Hum, 59, non-executive. Appointed in 1993. He is chairman of Smiths Industries and deputy chairman of Glaxo Wellcome. He is also chairman of the Board of Governors of Herley Management College.

Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, 55, non-executive. Appointed in 1995. He is also managing director of General Electric Company and a director of Pilkington. He was formerly chairman of Rover Group and is Industrial Professor at Warwick University.

Hon-Chiu Lee, 69, non-executive. Appointed in 1997. He is chairman of Hysan Development Company, deputy chairman of the Garden Hotel, Guangzhou and a non-executive director of Cathay Pacific and Hang Seng Bank. He is also chairman of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Council.

Sir Alex Trotman, 64, non-executive. Appointed in 1997. He is chairman of Ford Motor Company having joined Ford in 1955. He is also a member of the board of IBM.

Charles Miller Smith, the chief executive of ICI, ought to appreciate the irony. He is an historian by training but a Unilever man by apprenticeship, and he will be aware that one of the founding companies of Imperial Chemical Industries was Brunner Mond, a manufacturer of soda ash, used to make soap.

In the early 1900s, Brunner Mond's leading customer was Lever Brothers, but the ambitions of the two firms quickly brought them into conflict. Lever Brothers tried to develop its own soda ash operation, reneging on an agreement with Brunner Mond, which, in retaliation, bought two large soapmaking businesses that were snapping at Lever's heels. Determined to protect their respective markets, the two firms ended up in a protracted legal battle that lasted well into the 1920s.

Today, Unilever still makes soap and shows no sign of wishing to retreat up the supply chain into chemicals. The reverse, however, is true of ICI. The firm that backed the invention of polyester fibre, polyethylene and Perspex has decided to reinvent itself.

Instead of owning huge chemical plants that make basic raw materials, ICI is moving downstream towards the consumer, at least as far as it dares. The company has shed bulk chemicals and explosives and last year, ICI paid Unilever £4.8 billion to buy National Starch and Quest, two businesses that Mr Miller Smith sees as building blocks. These will form part of ICI's triumvirate of "sensory perception businesses", to use Mr Miller Smith's words. In plain language, he is adding a flavourings and perfumes business to ICI's existing Dulux paints. New ICI is renewing a battle that Brunner Mond abandoned.

The architects of Imperial Chemical Industries are seen as having been Sir Alfred Mond, chairman of Brunner Mond, and Sir Harry MacGowan, his counterpart in Nobel Industries, the explosives manufacturer. Their view of the world is interesting because it is now so unfashionable among many in Britain's chemical industry. In the 1920s, both men were convinced that the future lay in creating a company with much bigger clout, a rival to IG Farben, the German firm that led the market in dyestuffs. Sir Alfred believed that bigger was better and he coined the word "rationalisation" to describe the process of combining and streamlining businesses. On January 1, 1927, Brunner Mond, Nobel, British Dyestuffs and United

CORPORATE PROFILE: ICI



Charles Miller Smith, top centre, is leading ICI's move towards the consumer, keeping Dulux paints, but selling the fertiliser business based at Billingham. Other key players in ICI's development, clockwise, Sir Alfred Mond, Sir John Harvey-Jones, Lord Hanson and Sir Denis Henderson

Alkali merged to form Imperial Chemical Industries, making alkali products, explosives, dyestuffs, chlorine, acids and ammonia.

The corporate turmoil of the past year — almost £9 billion worth of deals — suggests that Mr Miller Smith suddenly received the tablets from heaven and is leading ICI to his promised land. However, the process has been going on for some time. In the 1980s, Sir John Harvey-Jones tried to free the company from its commodity heritage and obsession with volume. He emphasised that ICI's future was in its markets and he played a key role in the development of the seeds and agrochemicals business that was later spun off with Zeneca.

The issue that faced ICI is described simply by Mr Miller Smith. "ICI had to make a strategic choice," he says. "We either needed scale to compete

with Exxon and the new Asian companies or we had to focus ICI. The choice that would give shareholders most value was in selling a chemical application rather than capital-intensive commodities."

Technology that was once dominated by Du Pont and ICI is now licensed worldwide, and emerging markets in Asia, once seen as the saviour for Western chemical companies, now have their own chemical giants, such as Formosa Chemicals in Taiwan and Reliance Industries in India. ICI has decided that it

would rather not pour capital into high-tech plants in a futile attempt to challenge Asian rivals on cost. Instead of selling polymer technology to a largely indifferent world market, it will try to snuggle up to customers and make them dependent on ICI for specific products. In Mr Miller Smith's words, "with old ICI, there was one ethylene price, but there are 200 strawberry flavours".

What really shook up the old firm, however, was the ultimate corporate insult: in 1991 Hanson acquired a stake in ICI and said that it was considering a bid. Britain's favourite asset-stripper, scourge of complacent managers and padded boardrooms, wanted to wring ICI, once the bellwether of the UK economy, like a wet sponge.

That was enough to galvanise Sir Denis Henderson and his ICI colleagues. A dirty

battle ensued, in which Hanson emerged the worse, and much embarrassed over evidence of boardroom excess. More importantly, the bid made ICI consider whether the value of its pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals business was being submerged by commodity chemicals.

Zeneca was demerged five years ago and the financial performance of each company is testimony to the good sense of the strategy. ICI has underperformed, gaining 78 per cent in value over the period, while the market almost doubled. However, Zeneca's share price has more than quadrupled.

The City is warming to ICI. The deal with Unilever worried more than a few — in part because of the price and mutterings that ICI's new chief executive, a former finance director of Unilever, was simply buying the job that he missed getting in the old firm. Of

more concern were doubts that ICI could secure the promised £3 billion in disposals over three years from a slew of dull commodity businesses. However, within the past six months, the company has shed polyester polymers, titanium dioxide, explosives, fertilisers and its Australian arm to yield £3.5 billion.

Mr Miller Smith reckons that ICI has a long way to go. "If we are flying from London to Melbourne, we are probably over the Bosphorus," he muses. Some \$2 billion worth of sales have still to be shed, but, having done most of the restructuring, he is under no pressure to deliver quick results.

No small part of the task is to bring old ICI along with the new marketing-led speciality chemicals group. Mr Miller Smith believes that ICI's achievement has been innovation, creating new things and putting them into the market. Unilever, on the other hand, starts from what the market wants. These two approaches are unlikely to sit comfortably together and it is no secret which Mr Miller Smith favours. What has happened is indeed a reverse takeover of the men in white coats by people with colourful ties and the gift of gab. It is no accident that Mr Miller Smith has ensured that the head of human resources is from Unilever.

Can ICI recreate its former dominance with speciality chemicals? Other chemical giants, such as Bayer and BASF in Germany, are resisting the fashion for focus, and logic suggests that Asian chemical companies will soon move downstream into flavourings and additives. Today's speciality chemicals may well turn into tomorrow's commodities. However, in a sense, domination is the wrong objective and best left to those with money to burn. If ICI becomes more profitable and more free of foot, few will regret that its imperial vision has gone for good.

CARL MORTISHED

Ethical expression! .. 7/10
 Fat-cat quotient! .. 10/10
 Financial record .. 4/10
 Share performance .. 4/10
 Attitude to employees 6/10
 Strength of brand .. 8/10
 Innovation .. 8/10
 Annual report .. 8/10
 City star rating .. 5/10
 Future prospects .. 9/10

Total .. 87/100

Ethical policy is evaluated by *Strategy Works*. The Fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practices score highest, is provided by *Crisp Consulting*.

Pirc puts pressure on First Leisure

By DOMINIC WALSH

PIRC, the corporate governance consultancy, is advising institutional shareholders of First Leisure to vote against the re-election of three non-executive directors at the group's annual meeting tomorrow.

The advice is being given in protest at the executive pay packages revealed in the leisure group's recent annual report. Michael Grade, chairman, has been given an incentive package that could earn him a maximum of £4.5 million over four years, while Mike Payne, managing director, has been given a £79,000 bonus for agreeing to lengthen his contract to three years.

Pirc's concerns centre on several of the group's non-executive directors, three of whom — Joseph Bollom, Jonathan Woolf and David Bucks — are up for re-election at the annual meeting. Ann Simpson, the consultancy's joint managing director, said: "We will be calling a poll and have advised clients to vote against the re-election of the three directors, whom we don't believe are independent." Pirc is not opposing the re-election



Michael Grade, left, and Mike Payne have aroused Pirc's ire

of Jennifer Priestley, who joined the board in January.

Mr Bollom and Mr Bucks, like two other non-executive directors, Lord Rayne and Robert Rayne, his son, have been on the board since 1983. A number of leading institutional shareholders have a policy of opposing non-executives who have served more than ten years. In addition, Mr Bollom and the Rayne family have interests in properties that First Leisure either

Employers emphasise training

By JANET BUSH
 ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITISH employers are putting more emphasis on training and less on pay increases in a bid to cope with skills shortages, according to a new survey by Industrial Relations Services.

The survey of 60 employers found that training was by far the most often cited strategy with 17 per cent increasing training, 14 per cent training people up to fill higher-skilled vacancies and 6 per cent saying that they would take on trainees and apprentices.

IRS concluded that, as a result of this trend, "rampant wage inflation is unlikely to occur again".

Paying higher wages was, however, still cited as the most effective strategy by 20 per cent of respondents.

Rachel Gooch, an IRS researcher, said: "There's no doubt that, in the short term, employers are again trying to pay their way out of trouble. But they are being much more focused and astute than in the last boom and, significantly, they are paying more attention to training up staff and taking on trainees than in the past."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

TRANSPONDER
 (d) A device which, when interrogated by radio signal from a remote location, automatically transmits a response signal on the same or a different frequency. It thus helps to establish bearing and range. It is an essential instrument of air traffic control.

MARTINI HENRY
 (d) Friedrich von Martini patented a firing mechanism in 1868. Instead of hammer or lock-and-flint firing, Martini used a spring-driven firing pin through a hole in the breech-block into the centre of the round. Alexander Henry developed a system of rifling. The British Army adopted the rifle in 1869. It was superseded by the Lee Metford in 1892.

MIGHTY MO
 (b) The US warship Missouri, built in 1944. She was a battleship with a displacement of 57,540 tons, the last of an obsolescent form of warfare. The surrender of Japan in August 1945 took place on board her. The old lady was engaged in the Korean War, 1950-53; transferred to the reserve fleet 1955; recommissioned 1980; and finally withdrawn from fleet service in 1992.

CAPUCHINS
 (a) An order of Franciscans established in 1525, specialising in missions and preaching. Their name derives from their pointed hood, the capuche. Capuchins are distinguished for their poverty, beards and brown robes.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
 1. Bf7 leaves Black without a good defence, eg. 1... gxf6: 2. Rg3: Kh8: 3. Qh6: 1... Rf8: 2. Qg5 gtc: 3. Qh6 or 1... h6: 2. Rg3 and White will crash through.

British Steel ready to sell cargo fleet

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

BRITISH Steel is planning to sell its cargo fleet in a bid to cut costs. The steel manufacturer is engaged in a major review of non-core operations and is expected to seek buyers for a fleet of bulk carriers used to transport coal and iron ore.

British Steel's fleet consists of eight ships, of which four are wholly owned with the rest leased or chartered. Another 170,000 tonne vessel is believed to be under construction for the company in the Far East. Shipping brokers reckon that British Steel's fleet is the largest non-tanker fleet under the British flag. The existing vessels are valued at about \$75 million (£44.5 million). The price reflects the deeply

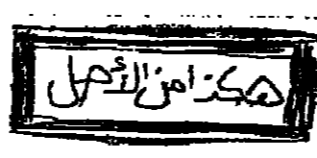
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CHANGING TIMES





Diageo to reveal mixture's after-effects

DIAGEO: The complexities involved with merging two food and drink behemoths...

The trading update in January pleased brokers and is almost certain to lead to another round of profit upgrades...

Once again the star performer is likely to be B&Q which accounts for around 40 per cent of overall group profits.

Woolworths has also performed strongly and should make a contribution in excess of £100 million.

There are also signs of a gradual improvement in the French economy which will be good news for Darty...

Much of the focus will be on cost-savings resulting from the merger. Some observers believe the £195 million cited is conservative...

KINGFISHER: Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy has much to live up to when he unveils full-year results...



Tony Greener will be serving up Diageo's maiden set of results on Tuesday

Mindscape unbundled for \$150 million (£90 million), having paid \$500 million for it originally.

NatWest Markets, the broker, is forecasting pre-tax profits of £296.5 million (£251.8 million).

The payout to shareholders may rise by 3p to 22p.

cial Times will be accompanied by a return to profitability at Les Echos.

The payout should grow 10 per cent to 19.8p.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES: The Asian economic crisis has cast a shadow over the engineering and aerospace group...

sales growth and margin improvement at the aerospace division where profits are set to grow 25 per cent.

BUNZL: Hopes are high that the packaging group will produce another useful increase in earnings.

Penruze Gordon, the broker, says the results should confirm that the group's organic growth record is intact.

Most of the growth is expected to come from paper and plastics disposables.

Profits will also receive a useful boost from various acquisitions. Unisource and American Filtrona should have contributed around £3.6 million.

ENGLISH CHINA CLAYS: A brighter picture is expected to emerge when full-year results are announced.

Brokers are expecting a return to the black and a dividend increase. Profits at the pre-tax level should come in at £87 million.

Market conditions remain

difficult but the group has undergone heavy restructuring, resulting in £95 million worth of write-offs.

There have been signs of the price war abating in specialty chemicals, while sales volumes for kaolin and calcium carbonate have been picking up.

It is hoped the payout will be raised from 12.5p to 13p.

Wm MORRISON: The supermarket group's Christmas trading statement offered hope with first-half sales growth of 3.2 per cent.

Full-year pre-tax profits on Thursday are expected to show an increase from £135.8 million to £151 million.

WOLSELEY: Buoyant conditions in the US and a modest improvement in trading conditions in the UK are likely to be the order of the day.

Brokers will want evidence that conditions have begun to bottom out in Europe.

is likely to fall from 6.9 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

The M4 figures on Thursday will round off a hectic week of data.

The Sunday Times: Buy Ladbroke, Charles Raynes and Vickers. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy AMEC, Leicester City, Kwik-Fit, Alvis and Wymchurch Group.

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Markets braced for battery of vital data

The Budget will provide the big set-piece of the week, but the markets will also focus on a raft of vital domestic data.

The Bank has cautioned that it does not see earnings growth above 4.5 per cent as compatible with the inflation target.

Last Friday's unexpected upwards revision to the fourth quarter GDP figures revived fears of a rate rise.

A good inflation performance, however, will not necessarily rule out a rate rise next month.

is likely to fall from 6.9 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Table with columns: Bank Buys, Bank Sells, New Zealand, etc.

The Sunday Times: Buy Ladbroke, Charles Raynes and Vickers. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy AMEC, Leicester City, Kwik-Fit, Alvis and Wymchurch Group.

Advertisement for Posthouse hotels with text: Next time you're away, book any room at our business rate and your partner stays free.

CHANGE ON WEEK THE POUND US dollar 1.6705 (+0.0333) German mark 3.0348 (+0.0363)

Ford logo and text: Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 8 January, 1998 NOTICE is now given...



COMPANIES 44 Greener reveals results cocktail at Diageo

BUSINESS

POLICY 45 Roger Bootle on robbing Peter - to pay Peter



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MARCH 16 1998

Revalued Irish currency angers exporters

By CAROLINE MERRELL

IRISH exporters reacted angrily yesterday to the EU's monetary committee's decision to revalue the Irish pound by 3 per cent. Irish exporters were hoping to boost their profits through weak entry into European economic and monetary union (EMU) but the new rate of 2.48 marks will make the country's exports less competitive. One analyst noted it was the first time that a currency had been revalued, not devalued, against the mark. Tom Parlon, president of the Irish Farmers' Association, said farmers would lose £170 million (about £138 million) a year and incomes would fall 6 per cent. While the punt soared yesterday, the drachma slumped 14 per cent as the EU Committee admitted the Greek currency to the exchange rate mechanism. Yannis Papadoniou, the Finance Minister, yesterday moved to calm fears about inflation after the drachma's fall. Mr Papadoniou also unveiled a package of measures aimed at shrinking Greece's large public sector debt and cutting spending with the intention of bringing Greece into EMU within three years. In addition, Greece plans to privatise 11 state firms and three or four state-controlled banks by 1999 to save 300 billion drachmas (about £610 million) a year. He also said that he would begin to cut interest rates as soon as it was prudent to do so. Among the firms on the privatisation list are the Public Petroleum Corporation, a third tranche of OTE, the state telecoms company, the Thessaloniki International Fair, and two subsidiaries of Olympic Airways, Olympic Catering and Olympic Touristic. Banks up for sale are the Bank of Central Greece, Macedonia-Thrace Bank, Cretebank and, possibly, the Ionian Bank.



Twin towers up for grabs: Arsenal wants to enlist British Land to help to redevelop Wembley Stadium so that it can meet World Cup standards

Arsenal seeks Land help for Wembley bid

By CAROLINE MERRELL

ARSENAL Football Club is in talks with British Land, the property company run by John Riblat, about a joint bid to buy Wembley Stadium. The deal would also include Wembley's conference centre, arena and exhibition hall. The financial clout of Britain's second largest property company would be key to the redevelopment of the stadium to ensure it is a suitable venue for the 2006 World Cup finals. Arsenal has made an offer to Wembley plc, the leisure company that owns the stadium. The price is believed to be £120 million. However, the board of Wembley may favour a £90 million rival bid from the English National Stadium Trust, a non-profit making organisation that will benefit from lottery money for any development of the site. Arsenal wants to move out of Highbury, its home for 80 years, as the capacity at the stadium is only 25,000. Wembley can seat more than 80,000. The club has met stiff opposition from Islington Council and local residents over plans to expand the ground to seat 50,000 fans. Expansion could include compulsory purchases. A study by Healey and Baker, Arsenal's consultants, into the environmental effect of expanding the ground was not considered to be wide-ranging enough by the council.

Budget tax boost for hi-tech firms

By CHRIS AVRES

HIGH-TECH companies are set to benefit from radical proposals expected to be part of tomorrow's Budget, including the right to sell their tax-losses to shareholders. The proposed change would allow shareholders to buy part of a start-up company's tax loss, which would reduce their own tax bill. Senior figures in the information technology industry say they have heard "strong rumours" that such a policy will be announced in the Budget, and so far the Government has not tried to stop the speculation. The proposal is thought to have been put to Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, by Keith McCullagh, chief executive of British Biotech. He runs a working group set up in November to look at how to improve finance for small high-tech companies. Any announcement could spark another row over Mr Robinson's private business affairs. He has an interest in high-tech stock held offshore in Guernsey. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is also un-

Timing is vital for bets on the big speech

By JON ASHWORTH

IT MAY not rival Gladstone's epic of 1853, but City punters have high hopes for Gordon Brown's Budget speech. City Index, the spread betting bookmaker, expects the Chancellor to be on his feet for 77 to 80 minutes - and counting. Increases in cigarette, petrol, whisky, beer and car tax have all caught punters' interest, but it is the length of Mr Brown's speech that has really gripped the imagination. Few expect him to rival Gladstone, who was on his feet for four hours and 45 minutes, but everything points to a long-runner. Budget day speeches historically fall within a range of 60 to 90 minutes. City Index had been quoting a spread of 72 to 75 minutes, but this shifted to 77 to 80 by late last week. Anyone going "high" - wagering say, £5 that Mr Brown's speech will be longer than 80 minutes - will make £5 for every minute that it runs over. They lose £5 for every minute that it falls short of 80. It works the other way round, with those going "low" cashing in for every minute by which the speech falls short. They lose for every minute it runs over. City Index says Budget day betting is up fivefold on 1997.

Brown looks to the long term with new fiscal code

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to reveal today his Code for Fiscal Stability, binding future governments to a disciplined approach to tax and spending policy. Details of the code are being published on the day before Gordon Brown's first full Budget to send a signal of intent, not just for this Chancellor but his successors. The code, which sets out five principles of fiscal and debt management - transparency, stability, responsibility, efficiency and fairness - will be enacted in a Bill as soon as the Finance Bill becomes law. Future governments will only be able to amend the code by Parliamentary approval. It enshrines the duty of the Treasury to publish each financial year a full financial statement, a pre-Budget report and an entirely new statement of economic and fiscal strategy. Mr Brown envisages that this statement will normally be published at the time of the Budget. The Chancellor of the day will be compelled to set out his long-term objectives for key fiscal aggregates, assess recent fiscal out-turns against the long-term strategy and say whether the short and long-term strategy is consistent with the European commitment to an economic stability pact. The statement will also analyse the economic cycle, and provide illustrative economic projections for looking forward at least ten years. In the past, Budgets have tended to look ahead no more than five years. Mr Brown wants to cement into law his aim of greater transparency and accountability in policy-making as well as emphasise long-term economic management. All the reports mandated in the code will have to go in front of the Treasury Committee for its assessment. They will also appear on the Treasury's Internet site.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-25 in various positions.

No 1354

- ACROSS: 1 Truthfulness (8), 5 Swiss mountains (4), 9 Alcohol-processing organ (5), 10 Return to bad ways (7), 11 Imply (7), 12 Bell-shaped spring flower (5), 13 Interplanetary vehicle (9), 18 Tender, bold out (5), 20 Insult (7), 22 Biased: attracted (to) (7), 23 Gather (little bits) (5), 24 Hazardous ridge: shorten sail (4), 25 Putting together: a meeting (8)
- DOWN: 1 Overnight bag (6), 2 Ruminous actions, effects (7), 3 Bendy line (5), 4 Reverse a (losing) situation (4,3,6), 6 Folded-back part of jacket (5), 7 Somnolent (6), 8 Hold tight: part of car (6), 14 Skilful, deft (6), 15 Saw, saying (7), 16 Barrel-maker: James Fenimore - (6), 17 Parsimonious (6), 19 Counterfeit; smithy (5), 21 Organ piece, oft. preceded by toccata (5)

Train leasing may be regulated

By CARL MORTSHIED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

THE profits of the privatised rolling stock companies may soon be under threat from an industry regulator. The House of Commons Select Committee on Transport is expected this week to recommend that future contracts entered into by the three leasing companies that own Britain's trains be subject to approval by an independent authority. Train operating companies (Tocs) are unhappy about the price and the terms which the rolling stock companies (Roscos) demand for their trains. Contracts between the Roscos and the operators are not subject to regulation, and Tocs fear that Roscos will demand punitive terms when existing leases run out. On Wednesday, the select committee is likely to recommend that train leasing contracts be subject to regulation.



Swift: looking at Roscos

BUDGET WEEK IN BUSINESS NEWS. Wednesday: Everything you need to know about Gordon Brown's second Budget. Thursday: Graham Searjeant, above, gives his unique perspective on the economy. Friday: Anatole Kalensky looks at the Chancellor's measures and their effectiveness.

One solution, which would require legislation, would be to grant the Rail Regulator, who already has to approve the access contracts between Tocs and Railtrack, the same powers over leasing contracts. Any such move would be a blow for Royal Bank of Scotland, which recently bought Angel Trains from Nomura, netting a £390 million profit for the Japanese bank. HSBC bought another Rosco, Everholt, while Stagecoach acquired the third, Porterbrook. Rail industry observers believe that Roscos have played a poor political hand. One said: "They have been very silly. They have fought the battle they could not win. Instead of fighting for gentle regulation, they fought against the principle of regulation." The National Audit Office recently criticised the privatisation of the Roscos, stating that they were sold at a £1 billion discount to their value. Meanwhile, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has asked John Swift, the Rail Regulator, to look into the scope for the rolling stock companies to abuse their market power through excessive pricing. He said: "They must not get rich again at taxpayers' expense." Tom Winsor, a partner at Denton Hall, the law firm, said existing competition law was unlikely to prevent abuses. "The original theory was that if you had three companies they would compete with each other. The trouble is that the way they endowed the rolling stock means that if you want a particular type of train you may have only one company to go to." The Government has a choice of legislating or using existing powers under the Fair Trading Act to refer the matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The MMC could then consider whether Roscos are abusing a dominant position in the market for trains. Alternatively, the Government could legislate to grant powers to the Rail Regulator requiring him to approve every rolling stock lease.

Employers face huge bill to cover pension changes

By RICHARD MILES

EMPLOYERS face a multi-million-pound bill after the Government's acceptance that pension scheme solvency rules need strengthening in the light of last year's Budget changes. Ministers have indicated to the actuarial profession that the funding requirements for company pension schemes need to be bolstered because of the Chancellor's decision to abolish the ACT dividend credit for pension funds. The new rules will force many employers to inject more cash into their pension schemes, but will not be implemented immediately because actuaries have begun a fundamental review of how pension schemes are valued. The review could mean that property and overseas equities may also be included in mini-

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